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Great Britain.

LONDON, DECEMBER 29, 1881.

PRINCE BISMARCK AND THE POPE.

So far as the rumours about German intervention in the Roman question refer to a projected restoration of the Pope's temporal power by the help of Germany they may be dismissed without further thought. It seems highly probable, however, that Prince Bismarck really has been viewed as a personification of the Pope and the Italian Government that the position of the former should be regulated by an international agreement, instead of, as now, by an Act of the Italian Parliament. There are obvious reasons which might make a settlement of this kind agreeable to several of the Powers. To the Pope it would restore a freedom of movement and action which he greatly values. Notwithstanding the excuses offered by the Italian Government for their inaction at the time of the removal of the Pope's body, it is impossible for the Pope to get home as he used to do without running great risk of insult. The police might arrest a large number of precaution which could ensure the Pope against insults being offered. If, however, the protection of the Pope's person devolved on the Italian Government by virtue of a municipal statute, it would be an international treaty, the Italian Government would be able to take such precautions as they knew to be necessary with a view to the Pope's safety. Even a slight delay, if he were also a practical politician, would not wish to outrage the Pope at the cost of embroiling his country with foreign Powers. In return for this security the Pope might give to Italy the very great advantage of a reconciliation between the Government and the Church. The most conservative of forces would no longer be, as it now is, a revolutionary instrument. The Pope would have condoned the seizure of his temporal dominions, and in so doing he would have condoned the similar seizures which were effected at the expense of the Italian secular Princes. The connection between the Church and the principle of Legitimacy would be dissolved; and it would be no longer possible to argue that, as the Pope still denies the justice of the revolution which deprived him of his dominions, he must be understood by parity of reasoning to deny the justice of the revolutions which had subjected those secular Sovereigns to a similar fate. The authoritative upsetting of this theory would bring to the support of the Government a considerable number of Italians who now hold aloof from it. There has been some speculation on the part of the Italian papers as to the possibility of Prince Bismarck's effecting this change without giving offence to France. There is reason to think, however, that the French Government would be only less benefited by it than the Italian Government. An arrangement by which the Pope accepted the loss of his temporal power, and thereby condoned the infliction of similar losses on the Italian Princes, would be extremely distasteful to the French Legitimists. All these are but the subsidiary gains which Prince Bismarck might hope to reap from such an arrangement as has been suggested. His principal gain would be the conciliation of the Catholic party in Prussia and Germany on singularly easy conditions. At present the main difficulty which Prince Bismarck has to meet is the want of any sufficient inducement to Catholics to come to terms with the State. The Prince has been driven to modify the administration of the May Laws by circumstances which make it pretty certain that he will not again attempt to enforce them in their integrity. Consequently, when the German Catholics come to consider whether they shall accept his overtures, and vote as he shall direct, they see no particular reason why they should do so. The concessions the Chancellor has already made to them have been dictated by considerations of self-interest; and there is no reason to fear that they will be withdrawn even if the Catholic party continues to hold itself neutral in parliamentary conflicts. Men seldom feel grateful for the simple cessation of annoyance, and up to this time this is all that the German Catholics have had to thank Prince Bismarck for. But if he were to take the initiative in a transaction which would enable the Pope to come out of the Vatican, to visit the great basilicas, to be present at the great functions, and generally to appear in an attitude of visible triumph over his spiritual adversaries in the city in which he has for ten years lived the life of a recluse, German Catholics would really have something to be thankful for. No lingering love for Legitimist principles would be present to ally their satisfaction, and their votes would be given with the ardour that befits men who have the opportunity of showing genuine gratitude for a genuine service. Prince Bismarck may not be able to bring about an arrangement by which the immunities of the Pope in his character of Sovereign Pontiff shall be secured by an international instead of a municipal sanction; but he certainly has a very patent interest in effecting such an arrangement if it is possible for him to do so.—*St. James's Gazette.*

THE IRISH LADIES IN DISTRESS.

The particulars of the work done by the Association for the Relief of Irish Ladies in Distress, as furnished to the Lord Mayor, are interesting but distressing. The recipients of succour obviously find the bread of charity bitter to taste, and it is almost pathetic to notice how they seem to crave for work rather than doles—work that they can do with their own hands, and which, comparatively useless as it may be in many cases, yet brings them money which they fondly fancy is its market value. Under this section of their operations the Relief Committee buy materials, and give them to poor gentlewomen to make up into such garments as can subsequently be distributed among infirm and necessitous persons, to whom warm clothing during winter is indispensable. But there are many indigent ladies in Ireland who are too feeble to undertake even the lightest work, and the Association has to aid them with grants of money or loans. Since the foundation of the Association one hundred and sixteen claims have been considered, and grants or loans varying in amount from five to fifty pounds have been made to eighty-nine claimants. Of course, many more cases are awaiting consideration, and how cruelly the ladies in question must be suffering is indicated by a letter from an applicant to the Directors of the Fund. She is the widow of a clergyman, and entitled to twenty pounds a year of rent, and seventy-eight pounds a year on mortgage. During the last eighteen months her income has dwindled away to seven pounds. She has three daughters depending on her, one of them deprived of the use of her limbs through accident. This poor old lady is too feeble to work, and continued privation has evidently crushed her pride, because she frankly says that, if assisted, she does not see how she will ever be able to pay back what is advanced to her. Yet here is only one among hundreds of similar cases of destitution caused by the promulgation of the "No Rent" doctrine. Manifestly, the only thorough remedy for such suffering is to get in the rents, the non-payment of which has reduced so many innocent and gentlewomen to beggary. In that view every one who subscribes to the Property Defence Fund is also aiding the movement for the Relief of Irish Ladies in Distress; for there would be no distress amongst Irish ladies who are dependent on the returns from land for their slender incomes, if law were only powerful enough to make the land yield any return in the shape of rent to those who own it.—*Evening Standard.*

NEWS FROM THE TRANSVAAL.

The Durban correspondent of the *Times*, telegraphing on Thursday, says:—
The year closes with hopeful news from the Transvaal. I have just received advices from Pretoria which fully confirm my last statements as to the quiet character of the proceedings at Paarl and the 14th inst. A large dinner party was held at which the Landrost of Pretoria presided. Speeches were made by Messrs. Kruger, Joubert, Pretorius, and Jorissen, Mr. Hudson, the British Resident, and Chief Justice Kotze. A review was held on the Drakensberg on the 14th inst. The following was the chief feature of the gathering:—At 9 o'clock in the morning a gun was fired. The horses were instantly saddled, and the men, who were under arms, moved up to the top of the surrounding hills and lined them. In all there were about 2,000 mounted men, and the same number on foot. At the front of a high central platform a cairn was built of stones thrown down by the patriotic visitors. The rising ground was covered with women and children. Just below were men on foot, round whom the horsemen swept with remarkable celerity. This encircling movement surprised all who witnessed it, and this, combined with the accuracy of their fire and their simple comradely arrangements, explains the enthusiasm which led to the Boer successes and to our disasters in the late war. The sound of the hymns of thanksgiving which were sung round this cairn and a solemn service performed before an altar which had been raised in honour of the people's struggle for freedom were most impressive. After this service there was a general dispersion homeward. Not less than 15,000 people are estimated to have assembled, of whom 4,000 were armed men on horse and on foot. The meeting reflected great credit on the promoters, for a more orderly and a more well-behaved one has certainly never been seen in Europe. It had been thought that Englishmen would not be able to show the same tact, but the people visited in showing kindly and hospitable treatment to all their English visitors. Politics ran high, particularly in the sermons, which were more like the fulminations of demagogues than the utterances of messengers of peace. My informant says the most bitter feeling expressed was towards Colonel Lanyon, who was stigmatised as the author of all the troubles. The present form of government is regarded as merely temporary. The people look for the formation of a strong Government, mostly Afrikaner, presided over by a Chief Justice Kotze is in most favour with the majority, as being best fitted for the post by reason of his education, experience, unswerving integrity, and high character. He enjoys the implicit confidence of both the Dutch and English. The condition of the Transvaal is not so bad as it is represented to be. Though money is scarce, prices keep up, and business is brisk. The Boers' fear of a native outbreak has now subsided, and the natives are coming in to work, even from Mosop's tribe. English visitors were well received at Boer houses. A general complaint is made of the new taxes. The Delagoa Bay Railway project is likely to be revived. General Smythe arrived to-day at Durban from Cape Town.

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

A Cork correspondent wrote on Thursday night:—
A man named Connell, a native of Millstreet, county Cork, a discharged soldier and at present in the militia, was arrested on Tuesday night, at Musher, between Macroom and Millstreet, on a charge of having fired a shot at a policeman. He was in bed with two women, and the women were made. In his vest pocket some documents were found disclosing the fact that a diabolical plot had been arranged by "Captain Moonlight" and his gang to murder two farmers named Sullivan and Coakley, because it was supposed they had paid rent to the landlord, Mr. Barry and Mr. Sullivan's two daughters were to have their cut off to the bone, on account of one having spoken to a policeman, and the other for dealing in a shop of Mr. Haggarty, a Boycotted trader in Millstreet. Connell, who is believed to be the real "Captain Moonlight," was arrested in the house of a farmer named Shea, and in one of the outhouses a number of revolvers were found. A gold watch was found in the sash of the two farmers, which is believed to have been stolen from the house of a Mr. Cudmore when a raid was made on his dwelling at night some months ago. The most minute details were set forth in the document referred to above as to how the assassinations of the two farmers were to be accomplished, and the date for the execution of the diabolical act was set down as the 30th of December, 1881. Connell is now in Cork County Gaol, and will be brought up at a special Court of Petty Sessions in a few days. It appears the two farmers had not paid their rent. Some important disclosures will in all probability be revealed at Connell's trial.

THE CASE OF ALLEGED POISONING AT WIMBLEDON.

On Thursday afternoon Mr. Paget, at the Wandsworth Police-court, was charged with the charge against Dr. George Henry Lamson for causing the death of his brother-in-law, Percy Malcolm John, aged 19, a student at Blenheim-house, Wimbledon, by administering to him a poisonous substance, namely, strychnine, on the evening of the 31st inst. The same counsel appeared as before. Mr. Paget, at the last hearing of the case, suggested that an arrangement should be made to hear it at another court, on account of the limited time at his disposal. The prisoner was communicated with Sir James Ingham, who had sent him a letter stating that he would proceed with the case at Bow-street. It was then proposed to hear witnesses as far as the time of the Court would allow. Mr. St. John Wontner, on behalf of the prosecution, stated that the analysis was substantially completed, and that traces of strychnine had been discovered. He also stated that experiments had been made with acetic acid upon animals. John Edward Silling, an assistant to Messrs. John Wontner & Co., chemists, of Oxford-street, was the first witness called. He said that on the 11th of November last he made up a prescription for the prisoner, consisting of a solution of morphia and atropia. On the 16th he called again, and witness supplied him with a solution of strychnine. The deceased was given five grains of pure digitaline, which is the active principle of foxglove, and poisonous if taken in large quantities. The prisoner said it was for internal use. Witness did not supply him with it, as he had left his practice at that time. The prisoner was asked to make a statement to call again in a few days, by which time witness arranged to obtain some fresh digitaline from the warehouse. The prisoner called again, and asked for one grain of acetic acid. Witness said it was an active poison, and as the prisoner said it was for internal use, he refused to serve him, and recommended him to procure it where he was better known. That was after consultation with another assistant. At the visit on the 16th the prisoner said he had left his practice at that time. The prisoner was asked to make a statement to call again in a few days, by which time witness arranged to obtain some fresh digitaline from the warehouse. The prisoner called again, and asked for one grain of acetic acid. Witness said it was an active poison, and as the prisoner said it was for internal use, he refused to serve him, and recommended him to procure it where he was better known. That was after consultation with another assistant. At the visit on the 16th the prisoner said he had left his practice at that time. The prisoner was asked to make a statement to call again in a few days, by which time witness arranged to obtain some fresh digitaline from the warehouse. 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Great Britain

LONDON, JANUARY 14—15, 1882.

THE SITUATION IN GERMANY.

The Rescript of the German Emperor, issued in his quality of King of Prussia, appears to have caused great alarm and consternation in Germany. It is regarded by all outside Court circles, and possibly some within them, as laying down dangerous doctrines for the present, and threatening worse things for the future. Its two main propositions are that the acts of the Government are not the acts of the Minister who countersigns them, but of the Sovereign who orders them; and that officials at election time are bound, under pain of dismissal, to support, or at least not to actively oppose, the policy which the Sovereign recommends to the country. The German Parliament has begun by asserting its independence in a curious way. It has passed, by a very large majority, the second reading of a Bill respecting the Act whereby ecclesiastics are bound to make submission to the State before entering on their offices. The Falk Laws are purely Prussian enactments; but this was an Imperial Act, and the Imperial Parliament can therefore repeat it with the assent of the Federal Council. The majority was made up not only of the Clericals, the Poles, and others, who would be sure to vote for any measure giving greater latitude and security to ecclesiastics, but also of a large contingent of advanced Liberals, who were opposed on principle to restrictions on religious opinion, and a small contingent of Socialist democrats, who were opposed on principle to any restriction on anything. Old-fashioned Liberals vote against the measure on the usual ground that freedom must not be conceded to the enemies of freedom. There was a reasonable ground for the difference of conscientious opinion in the ranks of the Liberal Party, and the respective sections voted as they thought right. This was immediately seized upon by the critics devoted to Prince Bismarck, as a fresh proof of the internal divisions and quarrels of the Liberal Party. It may, on the other hand, be taken much more reasonably as a proof that the German people is seriously interested itself in its own affairs, and that honourable men are prepared to vote in accordance with the opinions by advocating which they secured their election. What will be the fate of the Bill remains to be seen; but there can be no doubt that the action of the Parliament constitutes a new and very important step in the constitutional struggle which is now agitating Germany.—*Saturday Review*.

The *Speculator* is of opinion that the “Royal Rescript” published in Berlin on Saturday evening does not involve a revolution, but in advising its issue Prince Bismarck has entered on that broad road which leads direct to *compétence d'Etat*. The immense effort is made to show that the Rescript contains no new doctrine, and only reasserts the central truth of the Prussian Constitution; and there is a sense in which this theory is partially, though only partially, correct. There is no doubt that the Constitution in Prussia was intended to be monarchical, in a sense in which the English Constitution, at all events in modern times, has not been monarchical; that it left an immense place for the King; that he was intended to remain head of the Executive; and that, in particular, he was allowed full power to select, appoint, and replace his own Ministers. But it is no less true that the King was expected to act on the advice of such Ministers as he and Parliament could both accept, and that the policy of the king, though no doubt immensely influenced by the King's will, was in theory to be theirs, and not his only. For the Constitution, as the Rescript admits, made the King irresponsible, made Ministers responsible, and rendered the signature of a Minister indispensable to every act. To make Ministers responsible for decrees which they could in no way control, is an injustice which not even the framers of Continental Constitutions could have intended to commit; and consequently, for 31 years the King, though, no doubt, most powerful, has been sheltered by his servants from Parliamentary or popular attack. In declaring, therefore, that “the right of the King to conduct the Government and policy of Prussia, according to his own discretion,” is limited, but not abolished, by the Constitution, and that the necessity for a Minister's signature and the responsibility of Ministers do not impair the directness of the King's action, the author of the Rescript gives a new and, *pro tanto*, an absolutist interpretation to the Constitution.

M. GAMBETTA AND THE FRENCH CONSTITUTION.

The *Saturday Review* is uncertain whether M. Gambetta prefers two Chambers to one; but he has shown on more than one occasion that he correctly appreciates the special connection which exists between the communes and the Senate. The real reason, apparently, that moves him to destroy the Constitution in this particular has nothing to do with the manner in which the popular Chamber is elected. M. Gambetta has made up his mind that he will not govern France unless the Chamber of Deputies is elected by departments, instead of by arrondissements; and he sees in the revision of the Constitution the only means of getting what he wants. Why there should be no other

means than this is less obvious. There seems no reason why M. Gambetta should not introduce a Bill to establish the *scrutin de liste* without subjecting the Constitution to revision, in order to accomplish what might equally be accomplished without such revision. The explanation may possibly be that, as it is not proposed to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies, there is no reason for introducing a bill to change the distribution of the constituencies now before a general election. But as revision was the cry with which M. Gambetta went to the country last autumn, there is a technical consistency in giving immediate effect to it, even though the ostensible reason for doing so has disappeared. Revision is to be resorted to in reference to the mode of electing the Senate, nominally, because it was part of M. Gambetta's programme under a quite different state of things, but really because M. Gambetta wants to make the Constitution define for the first time the mode of electing the Chamber of Deputies.

The *Speculator* considers that M. Gambetta having told the country that he could not vote fairly without the *scrutin de liste*, and as the country, willing or unwilling, accepted his terms, he is in the right in insisting on them. That he will carry his revision cannot be doubted. France did not insist on *scrutin de liste*, but it voted permission for it as clearly as ever the United Kingdom voted permission for an Irish Land Act. It may be angry, and the apprehension that dissolution will follow revision; but the effect of that anger will be to induce it to vote so carefully “straight” that the excuse for dissolution will never come. That this is personal government, rather than real Parliamentary government, may be true, and the *Speculator* dreads *scrutin de liste* for that very reason; but still it is personal government terminable in a moment at the will of the electors.

ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND EGYPT.

The Economist, after mentioning the respective objects of England and France in Egypt, declares that if the joint protectorate should once take the form of a joint protectorate it is difficult to see how combined military action can lead in the long run to any other result—the irreconcilable divergence between the aims and interests of the two Powers will soon declare itself, and the worst consequences may be apprehended.

The truth is that England and France are in Egypt on radically false positions, and yet they can neither retreat nor go forwards, except at the risk of precipitating a catastrophe. Of all expedients that could be devised for securing and retaining influence in a foreign country, the expedient of an indirect financial control is probably the best, but Egypt must be in any case its evils are more than doubled when its exercise is vested jointly in Powers whose objects and methods differ so widely as those of England and France. Yet now that the control is once established, to abandon it hastily would be to deliver over Egypt to anarchy, or at least to Turkish domination. The situation, full of peril and embarrassment as it is, is one which we have created for ourselves, and we have only ourselves to thank if it is not immediately escape from it. Our best hope for the future would seem to lie in gaining the friendship of the better elements in the Nationalist party, which may in time provide the nucleus of a healthy and independent Government.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF LONDON.

The *Speculator* believes there is something in the understood resolve of the Cabinet to reform the Government of London that year which appeals strongly to the imagination. It is such a gallant attempt to do good, without promise or hope of pay! No great class particularly wants the metropolitan to be vivified, and a great many strong interests have reason to dread any innovation.

The plan proposed, so far as it is oozed out, will, to the alarm of the aldermen, be substantially an extension of the City, with a better suffrage, but with two houses, a Court of Aldermen and a Court of Deputies, over the whole metropolitan area, but the City Ring will have an ultimate loss of power. Hitherto, even Government has shrunk from touching them, and the federated municipalities which look up to them as defenders of self-government. The vesting of the City Ring and dependants, will be all alarmed, indignant or doubtful; while Conservatives of all kinds will apprehend by instinct that the waking of popular light in the huge city may be fatal to the ascendancy they always claim, but did not even dare to boast. The aldermen, there may be resistance, too, from the great nobles whose fortunes are derived from their London ground-rents, and who entertain a conviction, groundless, as we believe, that the equalisation of rates, which must follow or accompany any reform, will affect their incomes. And at the same time, the general population, the millions of the “province covered with houses,” which we call London, are hardly aware of the value of reform. There is but one objection to the question of London being made a single body of two Houses, with a regular executive, and with the administration of all departments, from the schools to the streets and the water—“with the rights, in fact, of a Birmingham municipality”—which is worth serious discussion. It is a very great power which is to be taken from the aldermen, and it is not too great? May not London, like Paris, be too strong for the good order of the country? That is the true argument which has delayed the creation of London so long, and it is neither unreasonable nor out of place.

THE WIMBLEDON POISONING CASE.

The coroner's jury have come to the same conclusion as the police magistrate, and decided that there is a *prima facie* case for Dr. G. H. Lamson to answer in respect to the death of his young brother-in-law, Percy Malcolm John being, a body of

No other result was possible. The cause of the poor boy's death was abundantly clear. He died from acetic poisoning. The physiological proof of this is complete. His death followed almost immediately on the visit of Dr. Lamson. It has been proved that Dr. Lamson had purchased acetic acid, and that acetic acid was found in some of the preparations which he had given to his brother-in-law for medicinal purposes. The most reasonable deduction from these facts is that they were due, not to coincidence, but design. When, however, it was proved that the boy had been ill on a former occasion after an interview with Dr. Lamson, and when it was shown that the latter had a powerful motive for wishing his death, the inference from all the circumstances that the one should be thrown upon him of establishing his innocence before the coroner and the magistrate shows that there can be no doubt that every help which science and legal ability can afford for the purpose will be at his command. In the meantime, there is one eminently satisfactory aspect of the case. The evidence adduced in the inquiries before the coroner and the magistrate shows what an immense advance has been made in the science of toxicology within the last

quarter of a century. Comparing the evidence given on the trials of Palmer and Dove with that which we have lately read, we seem to have passed from a region of conjecture to one of almost positive demonstration. If it is alarming to know that one-sixteenth part of a grain of acetic acid is sufficient to kill a man, it is reassuring to learn on the same authority that the two-hundredths part of a grain of that subtle poison can be infallibly detected after it has wrought its deadly course on the system. The coroner's jury appended to their verdict an expression of sympathy with Mr. Bedbrook, the principal of the school where Mr. John died. Such is the perversity of human nature that Mr. Bedbrook is certain to suffer in public opinion from the occurrence of this tragedy at his house. It is right, therefore, to point out that there is not the smallest ground for imputing fault to him. No possible care on his part could have protected his unfortunate pupil, and he deserves and will have the sympathy of all right-thinking people.—*Globe*.

COMPENSATION FOR WRONGFUL CONVICTION.

Referring to the extraordinary confession of the man Brooks, declaring the innocence of two men who have already served a long term of penal servitude for an attack upon him, which is now shown never to have been made, the *Daily Telegraph* remarks that the question of practical interest now is whether anything can be done to compensate these unfortunate men for all their hardships.

To indemnify them fully would be impossible. But the stigma attaching to them is wiped off already, and there remains an act of generosity which ought certainly to be performed without loss of time. Every competent man should be awarded and every effort made to start the victims again in at least as good a position as they occupied before. For, if justice sometimes errs, when the error is discovered it is only common fairness that the injury inflicted should be repaired. It is not a dangerous generalisation to say, will happen in the best administration of the law, as the cases of Galley and Habron notoriously exemplify, though there is no reason to complain of the number of mistakes made by criminal law courts. The law is a great machine, and the wheels are greased with money, and axles, and now and then some part of the mechanism is apt to go wrong. This is the percentage of failure which always accompanies any vast and ordinarily satisfactory system; but the very rarity of wrong convictions is a forceful argument in favour of compensating the victims of them when they do occur. The expense per annum would be comparatively small, and in the case of Johnson and Clowes the State is spared the cost of keeping the men in prison for eight years. It can, therefore, be regarded as a very small price to pay for the removal of a terrible punishment which has been to these poor men to find themselves arraigned for a crime never committed, condemned by a jury of their countrymen, and sentenced to ten years' penal servitude, who should not feel much inclined to brag over the matter of money compensation. Merely to tell them that they are free men, and can go about their business, is not enough. It would be unworthy of a wealthy and generous people. Sir William Harcourt will understand that the precedent of substantial indemnification is not a dangerous one, simply for the reason that mistaken convictions are of exceedingly rare occurrence. Even if the State were called upon to pay to the extent of £10,000 a year in compensation to convicted innocents, the loss would not be greater than the Exchequer might be able to bear.

DRAWBACKS TO ALPINE SUNSHINE.

Mr. John Addington Symonds sends the following from Davos to the *Pall Mall Gazette*:

Four years' experience has not shaken my belief in the value of a high mountain climate for certain classes of pulmonary invalids; though I am bound to say that the hopes I entertained and publicly expressed after a few months' residence in Davos have been considerably dashed by what I may call the “drawbacks” of the Alpine cure. The principles upon which an Alpine cure can be expected have been steadily neglected here. When I first knew the place it was a little village, furnished with a few hotels for the reception of travellers. The simple and primitive character of the air, pure, the houses far apart and of moderate dimensions. Since then it has rapidly expanded, and the expansion has brought the following bad consequences:—1. There is now a perceptible cloud of smoke always hanging over the valley, shifting with the wind, but never escaping, and thickening the air to a considerable extent. This smoke arises mainly, doubtless, from chimneys; but it reminds one of the breath of many hundreds of consumptive patients aggregated at close quarters. 2. The houses, which have sprung up like mushrooms, are built with little attention to the requirements of a sanatorium for the main promenade is more than half in shadow. 3. The drainage of the place is infamous. One portion of the village carries its sewage down into the marshes where it stagnates, and from thence is drained into the stream, which in winter is a shallow, open, ice-clogged ditch, exhaling a frozen vapour. To walk by the course of this river is now not only disagreeable but dangerous. The largest houses are built on the hillside, and a horrible effluvia arising from the cesspools beneath its windows. In the largest hotel frequented by the Germans a species of low fever has recently declared itself. 4. The social amusements of a watering-place have been greatly multiplied, and the amusements of the sort are no doubt not only necessary, but also beneficial. Yet it must be remembered that the peculiar severity of Alpine winter, the peculiar conditions under which the system is to be maintained, the necessity of being in places artificially heated with stoves, render all but the simplest forms of social gathering very dangerous.

The only way of averting some serious catastrophe from a health-resort which has deserved popularity, and the principle of which is excellent—the only way of preventing Davos from being converted into an ill-drained, over-crowded, gas-lit covey of cosmopolitan disease and second-rate gaiety is to develop rural places of the same type. The valley of Davos proper, from Davos Kulm or Wolfgang down to Frauenkirch, may be said to be already exhausted for building purposes. This valley is so narrow and so much enclosed with mountains that the further development of any of its hamlets is certain to injure the whole neighbourhood. Its torrent is too thin and hampered in its course to act as a common conduit-pipe for drainage. Its boasted absence of wind causes the addition of smoke from chimneys or of exhalations from cesspools to be immediately felt in all parts of the district. If the valley is to remain what it calls itself—a Luft-Kur-Ort, or “Health resort of sun and air”—it must learn rather to contract than to expand. I have touched upon some of the obvious dangers which at present threaten Davos. I might have gone into the question of the accumulation of sick people in big hotels, which are really consumptive hospitals, though not subject to the precautions used in consumptive hospitals, is not attended with the gravest disadvantages. So long as the hotels remain open, and there are only a few of them in the place, the peril from this source was slight. But the tendency at Davos has been

to enlarge each of the well-established pensions, to pack the patients together in as small a space as possible, and to build new inns at the doors of the old ones. All this is done in a climate where winter renders double windows and stove heated buildings indispensable. All this is done for a society where the dying pass their days and nights in closest continuity with those who have some chance of living! Within the last few weeks two cases have come under my notice, one that of a native of Davos attached to the service of the visitors, another that of an English girl, who have both contracted lung disease itself, owing, as I believe, to the conditions of life as they have recently been developed here. Such English doctors continue to send phthisical patients to Davos in such numbers as to encourage further building and crowding, they will not only destroy a very serious sanatorium, but they will be guilty of serious neglect of their first duties to the sick folk who consult them. The remedy is to establish a new health-resort of the same type. But this new place must, for reasons above given, not be founded in the valley of Davos. That is already at least sufficiently occupied; and Davos has enough in the future to do with organizing its existing accommodation. It really requires a little patience, a study of localities, and some spirit of adventure to create a rival which would save Davos from ruin and put profits into the pockets of speculators. Are not St. Moritz and Wiesbaden close at hand?

FASHIONABLE NEWS.

The Prince of Wales and a distinguished party had a fine morning's shooting on the estate of Lord Stamford, near Brackley Park, Leicester, on Friday. His Royal Highness, accompanied by Lord Stamford, left the hall soon after four o'clock, amid great cheering, the tenants having assembled in great numbers to witness the departure. The streets of Leicester were profusely decorated, and brilliantly illuminated. The Prince, who rode in an open carriage, was greeted with tremendous cheering by the vast multitude of spectators lining the streets. His Royal Highness bowed repeatedly in response. The royal party, accompanied by Lord Stamford, arrived at the station at St. Pancras in the evening. Lord Stamford and the Mayor of Leicester have been requested to convey to the inhabitants of the district the gratification of his Royal Highness at the exceedingly hearty and spontaneous reception he had met with. The marriage of the Duke of Devonshire and Countess of Blessington (1813), the flowing but magisterial “firms” of Miss M. E. Braddon (1866); the delicate Italian hand of “E. L. Bulwer” (1812); “Edward Bulwer Lytton” (1814); and the slightly tremulous “Lytton” (1868). Miss Rhoda Brougham, “Joanna” under the date of 1881; “B. Disraeli” wears a big, legal, overcrossing-looking hand in 1844, and is big and bold, but deviates from the horizontal line in 1881; Mrs. Frances Cashel Hoey seems to have been studying German calligraphy in 1872, so narrowly that she put her up and down strokes in “Ouida” is simply and gracefully legible in 1860; Caroline Norton flourishes too much in 1871; Charles Reade in 1856 bears down upon you like some great Spanish galleon; and the sign manual Katherine Saunders (1873) might be an old signature, so sternly resolute, is it, to the death warrant of Charles the First. Thomas Carlyle is almost illegible in 1865; E. C. Grenville Murray is diplomatically clear in 1872; and W. M. Thackeray (1857)—in his cursive and oblique, not his horizontal Anglo-Greek character, would do honour to a copy-right engraver of visiting cards. “Anne Thackeray” in 1875, developed into Anne Ritchie in 1879, quite overpowers, calligraphically, her illustrious sire.—G. A. S. in the *Illustrated London News*.

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

An application was made in the Dublin Circuit on Friday, to the Lord Chief Justice and the Lord Justice Barry for a mandamus to quash the sealed order of the Local Government Board dismissing Dr. Kenny, now a “suspect” in Kilmahon Gaol, from his office of surgeon of the North Dublin Workhouse. Affidavits were read setting forth the services of Dr. Kenny, and urging that he should not be dismissed unless he had shown unfitness for his duties. After some argument the case was ordered to stand over.

The fund for the sustenance of the political prisoners now amounts to £10,000. Dissatisfaction is, it is stated, felt among the suspects in Kilmahon as to their treatment by the Land League. Out of the eighty-two prisoners in that gaol, sixty-six have refused to accept any part of the prison fare, but Messrs. Dillon, Brennan, Dr. Kenny, and twelve others receive one meal a day supplied out of the fund. Some of the prisoners are very indignant at an appeal being made for their food while such large sums have been received from America, of the disposal of which no account is given.

Parnell says that a man who recently had an interview with Mr. Parnell in Kilmahon Prison asked him how his own tenants were acting as regards the No Rent movement. The eminent suspect, smiling pleasantly, replied that they were standing to the man's splendid style. On Wednesday night two policemen, who were watching at Clonsilla, near Drimoleague, Cork, heard the report of firearms, and saw a man armed with a gun. The man, who had apparently discharged his gun near the house, was seen to enter the house, and escaped, but left his gun behind him. On the same night, a farmer named McCarthy, residing at Ballymacroom, was dragged out of his bed by a party of armed and disguised men, who subjected him to gross ill-treatment. McCarthy was suspected of having paid his rent.

At the Cork assizes on Friday several persons who had been convicted of riot at Abbeyfeale, when a land agent and a bailiff were beaten and stripped and two policemen assaulted, were brought up for sentencing. Cornelius Donoghue and John Cullinane were sentenced to five years' penal servitude. One man was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment, and five others to twelve months' imprisonment each.

Several arrests were made in the neighbourhood of Millstreet, county Cork, on Friday, bringing up the number of arrests in this locality to twenty-three.

ECHOES.

It is a very sad thing to be utterly desperate —to find that the little Pandora's box of Turbidge Wells was, privately presented to one many years since, and from which so many evils and distempers have issued, has disintegrated with the dry rot, and that even Hope has fallen through. Yes; I am, at this time of writing, altogether hopeless of being able to persuade those disastrous persons, the writers of political leading articles in the newspapers, to use an obvious English equivalent for the French word “cloture.”

The odious word *cloture*—I call it odious, since we have no honourable English equivalent ready to our hand—is first found in *James's Gazette* of Jan. 9, some half a dozen years. There is a leading article entitled “The Cloture” in the *World* of this week. I have seen it quoted in the *Standard* and many other papers; and between this and the opening of Parliament the political leader-writers all over the country, will be “talking the leg off an iron pit,” so to speak, about “a cloture,” and McJingo, that fervid anti-ministerialist, will be vehemently declaring, at the annual dinner of the West Gloucestershire Constitution Club, that “we don't want no Cloture in this country.”

“It is always considered,” wrote Sydney Smith, “as a piece of impertinence in England, if a man with less than two or three thousand a year has any opinions at all on important subjects.” There it is. If I have three thousand a year, if I were Professor Molyneux, F.R.S., or the Rev. Gyles Wapshot, D.D., or Mr. Nimblebones, M.P., or even Mr. Lord Tomnoddy, I might persuade people to listen to me on the matter of “closure” or “cloture.” As it is, I am not. I have no right to be heard, I esteem myself fortunate if I escape being branded as “sensational” in protesting against the attempted foisting on our language by the political leader-monger of the clumsily new-fangled word “cloture.” The Irish have adopted the system; but they disdain to borrow the word from the French. Words, idle words. We have to thank the Charity Organisation Society for the in-

vention of a brand new compound English word. What do you say to a “non-provident-boddy case”? I read of such a case in the report of a recent meeting of the beneficent institution in question. After this, what becomes of the briar-wood-pipe-smoking, bull-terrier-keeping, knife-board-omnibus-patronising, music-hall-ditty-humming, Gladly-restraining young man; or the American “shining-round-the-fore-luncheon, kill-killick-chewing, cocktail-imbibing, draw-poker-playing, non-law-abiding, scallawag-hoodlum cuss”? The non-provident-boddy case is, I gather from the Charity Organisation report, a labouring man able to work, but who just goes to work to do. He has been “non-provident”—that is to say, he has neglected to become a Forester, an Odd Fellow, a Druid, or an Ancient Briton; to invest in Consols, or make deposits in the Post-Office Savings Bank. Away with the non-provident-boddy case” to the workhouse. There let him crack stones and pick oakum.

A charming Christmas gift comes to me from Leipzig, in the form of a handsomely bound little tome, being the two-thousandth volume of the world-famed Tauchnitz Collection of British Authors. What a cheerful, kindly benefactor to English tourists abroad has been the Baron Bernhard Christian von Tauchnitz. Since '41, I think, has the Tauchnitz series been in course of publication. “At that time there was no international copyright; but Herr Tauchnitz respected the sanction of the authors, and pay them for permission to include their productions in his series.” Nobly has the House of Tauchnitz abided by its upright resolve. Most of the people of the pen have tasted the Tauchnitz blood, in the shape of voluminous and English tourists abroad and sisters will, perhaps, agree with me when I say that when, in the fullness of time, the Herr Baron is gathered to his fathers there could scarcely be a better epitaph for inscription on his mausoleum than the one (slightly altered) placed by the Baron himself on his father's, who was a wine merchant. The Tauchnitz epitaph should read:—

Although a Publisher.

A Generous Man.

The two-thousandth Tauchnitz is Professor Murray's “English Literature in the Reign of Victoria: with a Glance at the Past;” but the charm of the book is the copious collection of facsimiles of the autographs of British and American authors who have had dealings with the House of Tauchnitz. It is a shame that the signatures of so many of the beautiful Countess of Blessington (1813), the flowing but magisterial “firms” of Miss M. E. Braddon (1866); the delicate Italian hand of “E. L. Bulwer” (1812); “Edward Bulwer Lytton” (1814); and the slightly tremulous “Lytton” (1868). Miss Rhoda Brougham, “Joanna” under the date of 1881; “B. Disraeli” wears a big, legal, overcrossing-looking hand in 1844, and is big and bold, but deviates from the horizontal line in 1881; Mrs. Frances Cashel Hoey seems to have been studying German calligraphy in 1872, so narrowly that she put her up and down strokes in “Ouida” is simply and gracefully legible in 1860; Caroline Norton flourishes too much in 1871; Charles Reade in 1856 bears down upon you like some great Spanish galleon; and the sign manual Katherine Saunders (1873) might be an old signature, so sternly resolute, is it, to the death warrant of Charles the First. Thomas Carlyle is almost illegible in 1865; E. C. Grenville Murray is diplomatically clear in 1872; and W. M. Thackeray (1857)—in his cursive and oblique, not his horizontal Anglo-Greek character, would do honour to a copy-right engraver of visiting cards. “Anne Thackeray” in 1875, developed into Anne Ritchie in 1879, quite overpowers, calligraphically, her illustrious sire.—G. A. S. in the *Illustrated London News*.

THE ENGLISH SLAVE BOYS' CASE.—A Warrant granted.

Mr. G. M. Barker returned on Saturday at Bow-street on Saturday for a warrant against Hadj Ben Mahomed, the proprietor of the Beni Zoug Zoug troupe of acrobats, under the child-stealing section of the Act 24 and 25 Vict., cap. 100. He based his application on the information of Mrs. Barker, who stated that in 1873 she apprenticed her son, then aged eight, to Hadj Ben Mahomed, on the distinct understanding and agreement that the boy should not be taken out of England. In 1878 she heard that her son had been taken to Spain, and for three years she had been looking for him, but had not ascertained whether he was alive or dead. Mr. Flowers said he looked upon the indentures signed by the boys as void, as the boys ought to be capable of understanding what they were signing, and whether the deed was for their benefit or not. Mr. Barker said that he had personally investigated several cases, and in most of them it was found that the mothers had apprenticed their children owing to the dissolute characters of their husbands and their inability to provide for their children with honest means. Ade having sworn to her information, Mr. Flowers granted a warrant.

MOTION TO COMMIT MR. CHATTERTON.—A motion was made on Friday, before Vice-Chancellor James Hannen, on behalf of Mr. James Chatterton, for an order committing Mr. Chatterton and his treasurer, Mr. Jennings, for opposing Mr. George Newman, the receiver appointed by the court, receiving the rents and profits of Sadler's Wells Theatre, not to perform any operatic entertainment, and preventing him performing his duties.—Counsel for the defendants said there was no necessity to discuss the matter now, as the theatre was closed. He asked that the motion might stand over till next Friday, by which time he would have the opportunity of answering the case. There was a complete answer to the case. No opposition to this request was offered, and the motion was ordered to stand over till next Friday.

CHILDREN'S BALL AT THE MANSON HOUSE.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress entertained a large number of children at the Manson House on Friday evening, the programme, which started with the announcement of a representation of the “Living Marionettes,” a company of children, and was followed by a brilliantly illuminated, for the most part by different forms of the electric light, prominence being given to the Crompton light, were the scene of the greatest efforts on the part of the children and their friends to do honour to the occasion. Costumes were not only varied, but much taste had been displayed in their selection. If any fault could be found it would be that too many invitations had been given, and dancing being rendered most difficult; but members of the Common Council and City dignitaries had volunteered to help the juvenile dancers, and performed their task with zeal. One most amusing part of the entertainment in the intervals between the dancing was Professor Clarence's representation of the “Living Marionettes,” a company of children, and was followed by a brilliantly illuminated, for the most part by different forms of the electric light, prominence being given to the Crompton light, were the scene of the greatest efforts on the part of the children and their friends to do honour to the occasion. Costumes were not only varied, but much taste had been displayed in their selection. If any fault could be found it would be that too many invitations had been given, and dancing being rendered most difficult; but members of the Common Council and City dignitaries had volunteered to help the juvenile dancers, and performed their task with zeal. 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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 14-15, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE IRISH NATIONALISTS.

The unexpected extinction of the debate on the Address on Tuesday night may possibly be the first effect of the impending changes in the rules of the House of Commons. The Government Whips are apparently so full of the prospect of obtaining novel and extraordinary powers for putting Ministerial business through, that they are already tempted to relax the vigilance and activity of their ordinary duties. It certainly was not intended, when the House met on Tuesday, that the debate on the Address should be closed by a speech, unanswered and unchallenged, from the most forcible and brilliant rhetorician in the ranks of the Irish Irreconcilables. Mr. Sexton, who moved the adjournment on Monday night, had the right of opening the renewed debate. He had previously established his reputation in the House as the ablest speaker since the followers of Mr. Parnell since the retirement of Mr. O'Connor Power from active co-operation with that party. The Government could not have affected to treat Mr. Sexton's attack with contemptuous indifference, though few were prepared for the artistic success of his performance. Indeed, before Mr. Sexton rose the Prime Minister was subjected to some cross-examination from members who were dissatisfied with the exclusion of all other than Irish topics hitherto from the discussion. Sir Walter Bartlett demanded that an opportunity should be given for considering the affairs of the East and the informal negotiations with the Vatican. Mr. Gort protested against leaving the state of the Transvaal without notice. Sir Walter Bartlett urged that the great question of agricultural depression should not be passed over. Mr. Gladstone, in his answer, suggested that these topics might be taken up on the resumption of the Address, which he proposed to fix for Wednesday, assuming that Mr. McCarthy's amendment would occupy the whole of Tuesday night's sitting. On this assumption, also, he founded his reply to Mr. Dawson's protest against the postponement of the Irish Borough Franchise Bill, which would have had the first place among the Orders of Wednesday, if it had not been supplanted by the report of the Address. Allusion was made by Sir Henry Wolff to the rumour that Mr. Herbert Gladstone was to draw upon his Irish experience in dealing with the hostile criticisms of Conservatives and Home Rulers. It was, furthermore, reasonable to expect that the Prime Minister himself would not let slip the occasion for meeting Mr. Plunkett's challenge, and showing what he really meant when he seemed last week to invite the Irish Nationalists to present a Home Rule scheme for the consideration of Parliament. Unfortunately, in spite of this general understanding, no one rose to continue the debate when Mr. Sexton sat down. The Conservatives had had their say; the Irish party had nothing to add to the case presented by their boldest and most skillful advocate. The Speaker, seeing no more rise on the Ministerial side, was compelled to put the question forthwith, and, a division being taken, Mr. McCarthy's amendment was rejected by a majority of 98 to 30. The Address was voted immediately afterwards, and in the course of a brief conversation on the Slave Trade the House was counted out. The hours thus lost might have been profitably employed in satisfying the demands with which Mr. Gladstone had been confronted in the evening, but the loss was, we must suppose, due to accident or neglect. It is peculiarly unfortunate that Mr. Gladstone should have been unable or unwilling to give his explanation of his hasty utterances last week, while leaving Mr. Sexton's speech without an answer. We are glad to recognize Parliamentary ability on any side or in any form, and it would be idle, through dislike of Mr. Sexton's extreme and dangerous political opinions, to deny that his darning and League made a deep impression upon the House. We remain unconvinced by his ingenious attempt to exhibit the League to the world as a constitutional movement, striving to compass legitimate and praiseworthy objects by lawful means. But he contended, with much plausibility, that the operations and the intentions of the League were consistent throughout, as well while tolerated by the Government as when denounced and suppressed. It is, however, more important to take note of Mr. Sexton's uncompromising attitude upon the vital issue which underlies even the land question. Mr. Sexton declares, in the most outspoken language, that he heartily shares the hope expressed by Mr. Parnell, that Irish agitation may not be allowed to cease "until the detestable alien rule of the 'buckshot' Government which has kept the country impoverished has been got rid of." To this frank affirmation of his hostility to the British connexion, Mr. Sexton significantly added that he would not be so much concerned to give so long as any reasonable doubt exists upon this head. Now, the existence of such a doubt is proved by the circumstance that it is felt by a single competent witness (not that he stands alone either in testimony or authority, by any means); and the true way of breaking down the evidence of a single competent witness is to convince him that his distrust of the scheme is ill founded. It would be absurd

and dangerous. Nothing in Mr. Sexton's remarkable speech was more significant than the audacity and determination of his defence of "boycotting." He admits that, under ordinary conditions, such a system of social persecution would be detestable, but that in Ireland, where the people "were living under an alien law made by another community," it was justifiable and necessary. In the face of Mr. Sexton's audacious speech, it becomes more than ever the duty of the Government to show that the grasp of the Government in Ireland will not be relaxed until the Irish people have recognised the supremacy of the law and the obligation of contracts. There is another duty which the Government—and especially the Prime Minister—must not decline. After what Mr. Sexton has declared to be the objects and the methods of a strong, daring, and unscrupulous party, irreconcilably hostile to the British connexion, it is manifest that any incautious words, holding out to Irish Nationalists the prospect of obtaining a leverage for subverting the Union in the form of a separate Legislature for Ireland, ought to be promptly and clearly disavowed.—Times.

ENGLAND AND THE VATICAN.

Mr. Gladstone is, with and besides his many other qualifications, a man of business, and we do not suppose that he can feel very well satisfied with the methods of communication with the Vatican which he described on Tuesday. It is a Foreign Office tradition that means of direct intercourse between the Holy See and the British Government are essential. There are questions affecting the Roman Catholic Church in the colonies, in India, and perhaps nearer home, as to which it is believed to be necessary to interchange views and information with the Pope. For this purpose the present Lord Lyons, the present Lord Ampthill, and Mr. Jervis were at different times detached from what was then the British Legation at Florence to the Vatican. They corresponded, we believe, directly with the Foreign Office, and not through the intervention of the Minister to the Court of the King of Italy. When this official representation was abolished, the good offices of Cardinal Howard were put into requisition for bringing the Queen's Government and the Papal See into communication. If it is important that there should be an exchange of views between Downing-street and Dublin Castle on the one hand, and the Vatican on the other, it is certainly desirable that it should be conducted in a regular and official manner, by agents responsible to a Ministry, which is in its turn responsible to the House of Commons, and by means of despatches and other documents which can be laid before Parliament. That Mr. Forster should correspond with the Pope through Lord O'Hagan, and Lord Granville through Mr. Errington, may be necessary in default of any more regular channels of communication, but the House of Commons should know what has been done. When business is transacted by means of private letters, which being private cannot be laid before Parliament, and which not being laid before Parliament cannot be referred to in it, we seem to be getting very far back into the era and the methods of secret and irresponsible diplomacy. Perhaps there is no help for it in this particular case, and in present circumstances. But even Exeter Hall would prefer, we imagine, a public and responsible representation at the Vatican to strictly private and confidential correspondence with it.—Daily News.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL AND MILITARY OPINION.

Mr. Gladstone's answer to Mr. Bromley-Davenport on Tuesday afternoon was satisfactory. The Channel Tunnel Bills are not to be rushed through the House of Commons. It is strange that when the scheme was first considered under the late Government so little attention should have been paid to its military aspects. That mistake has now been set right. The Government "have become aware that various authorities, chiefly military authorities, had perceived that there were strong reasons why the question should be reopened," and they are now about to give these reasons immediate and complete consideration. It cannot be too much impressed upon the public that the question is before everything else a military question. It is of but little use to dwell on the financial and engineering difficulties of the scheme. Unforeseen obstacles may, of course, present themselves in both directions. But, in the opinion of those who are most likely to have gauged them accurately, the chance of their doing so is small. It may be assumed, therefore, that unless Parliament refuses its consent to the scheme on purely military grounds, one or more tunnels will shortly be constructed underneath the Channel. The one question of real importance is whether the military reasons which are urged against the scheme are sufficiently great, the country might fairly be willing to run some little risk in order to secure it. In this case, however, the risk to be run is altogether out of proportion to any gain the scheme could bring in. Granted the number of passengers between Paris and London increased tenfold, and the growth of the goods traffic was fully in proportion to it, no advantage the country could reap thereby would make up for the ruin that would certainly be brought about by an invasion which was successful only for a short time. If it can be proved to demonstration that the existence of the Channel Tunnel will not in the slightest degree lessen the security of the country, by all means let it be made. But no such permission should be given so long as any reasonable doubt exists upon this head. Now, the existence of such a doubt is proved by the circumstance that it is felt by a single competent witness (not that he stands alone either in testimony or authority, by any means); and the true way of breaking down the evidence of a single competent witness is to convince him that his distrust of the scheme is ill founded. It would be absurd

in the highest degree to part with the security of the country against foreign invasion because six general officers thought the tunnel might be made quite safely, while only five took the contrary view. Nor should the evidence in support of the harmlessness of the scheme from a military point of view be of the easy-going and slipshod kind which Sir John Aclay gave on Saturday. "If ever," he said, "an enemy was so foolish as to attempt an invasion in that way, and even succeed in sending through a few thousand men, he should be quite ready to take down some of the Kenilworth Volunteers and frighten them away." It is true that this was said at a Volunteer meeting; and officers of the regular army often seem to think that what these occasions must call for is a little professional bluffery. Strange to say, this little bit of professional bluffery has been treated by journals of the arguments by which the question must eventually be decided. Consequently, it is not too soon to say that a military opinion upon this question, if it is to be worth anything, must be one that travels over the whole relation of such a means of access to a plan of attack, and decides either that its creation will constitute no danger or all, or a danger which can be entirely removed by the adoption of such and such specific precautions. If either of these views can be made good, we do not imagine that the experts who are now hostile to the tunnel will be so any longer. If they should still be hostile to it, it will be because they hold that there is a flaw somewhere in their opponents' reasoning, and that, after all that has been said, there remains an appreciable danger which is not entirely met by the precautions suggested by the advocates of the scheme. It is to be hoped that the Government will lose no time in fulfilling their promise to communicate the negative to the first resolution proposed to the House of Commons on any proceedings are taken on the two bills now before the House of Commons. The more money that is spent on the preliminary experiments the greater will be the unwillingness of the promoters to abandon the project; and where so much may depend on its rejection it is important not to have any more interests enlisted in its behalf than can be helped.—St. James's Gazette.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

By direction of the Speaker, an arrangement has been made by which all questions addressed to the Prime Minister are placed together, and come at the end of the business. This is a very desirable arrangement, as much as possible Mr. Gladstone's time. It is stated that Sir Stafford Northcote will not have the full support of the Conservative party in moving the negative to the first resolution. Several of the moderate Conservatives recognise the necessity of placing the machinery of the House in working order, and will not be responsible for steps tending to embarrass endeavours to bring about a change in the strong bill issued on Tuesday, there was a large attendance of members in the House of Commons, anticipatory of the division on the Address. It appearing clear at seven o'clock that this could not take place before 11, more than 300 members left the House, arranging to be back at that hour. Baron de Worms was prepared to bring on Tuesday night his resolution respecting the persecution of the Jews, but he had been ordered to the dinner-table, and he arrived at the house shortly after eight o'clock. Mr. Slagg, who was to second the resolution, was also present. The count-out interrupted a consultation as to whether, in the circumstances, it would be desirable to bring forward the resolution.

Nothing is known among Irish members of Parliament of the "intended action" of the Government with regard to Mr. Parnell, to which reference is made in the "Daily News." Several of the members, who have suddenly and keenly agitated the Irish Parliamentary party.

Mr. Labouchere, Mr. T. C. Thompson, and Mr. Carbutt were the only English members who voted in his favour. The amendment in the division on the Address Mr. Tietz was the only English member who voted with the Parnellites.

It is unlikely that Mr. Dilwyn will move his resolution on the North Borneo Chartered Company. It is understood that he wishes the House to be in possession of the official correspondence before the subject is discussed. Mr. Gort is said to have decided to bring forward the motion on the same question which he introduced in his second paper for Friday week. Baron de Worms will put down his motion with reference to outrages on Jews in Russia for the same night, so that it is considered possible that Mr. Gort may ultimately give way. Mr. Gort intends to ask the Under-Secretary for the Colonies a question as to the truth of a statement made in a report of the Transvaal Volksraad, dated November last, to the effect that in 1878 the British authorities in the Transvaal had apprenticed 800 Kaffirs to the farmers, and that while the adults were to be under a contract for a period of three years only, the children were to be detained in servitude until the boys had reached their eighteenth and the girls their seventeenth year.

The Under-Secretary of State for War has notified to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that in future officers of the Royal Marine forces will be considered as eligible for employment in the personal staff of general officers of the army as aides-de-camp, when their services are applied for in that capacity. It is, however, to be clearly understood, that a general officer has not the absolute choice of an officer who may be technically eligible for his personal staff without the sanction of his Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief.

Mr. Bradlaugh is likely at some early date to raise a fresh and interesting question of Parliamentary procedure. He is, we understand, advised that the resolution passed by the House last week applies only to a sitting of the full House. With the chairman of Committees presiding, Mr. Bradlaugh believes there exists no bar to his entering the House and taking part in the proceedings; and this, we understand, he intends to do.

Some time ago it was expected that Sir Arthur Gordon, Governor of New Zealand, would visit England during the ensuing spring. We learn that he has abandoned this intention, having decided to remain in the colony.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO THE CONTINENT.

The Berlin correspondent of the Times telegraphed on Tuesday night:—It is announced here to-day that Queen Victoria, having here to-day journeyed on the Continent, and, in fact, on the way to Mentone, will pay a short visit to Arolsen in order more particularly to see her future daughter-in-law, the Princess Helena. It is also stated that the Governor Prince and Crown Prince of Germany will proceed from Berlin to Arolsen in order to welcome her Majesty. Queen Victoria's arrival at the Prince of Waldeck's residence is expected to take place on the 16th proximo.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

The Lord Chancellor took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY.

The Lord Chancellor introduced a Bill, and it was read a first time, for the consolidation and amendment of the laws relating to the property of married women in England and Ireland.

EGYPT AND TUNIS.

Lord De La Warr asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs when the papers relating to Egypt would be put on the table, and also when the Government could give any information with regard to the relations between this country and Tunis. He said that since 1878 there had been a considerable amount of Anglo-French political and financial interference in Egypt, a circumstance which was the cause of a strong feeling of uneasiness in that country and in Europe. As to Tunis, he was anxious to know whether we carried on our relations with Tunis through the Bey or through the Resident French Minister. He inquired, further, whether England had recognised the Treaty of Bardo.

Lord GRANVILLE said Her Majesty's Government did not think it would be desirable to present the papers relating to Egypt at the present moment. He was not aware of any change in our relations with Tunis since he answered questions on the subject put by the noble earl months ago. Her Majesty's Government had not been asked to give any formal recognition to the Treaty of Bardo, and they had given none; but they had shown no hostility to it, at the same time that they were determined to maintain our rights in the regency.

Their Lordships adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS.

Baron H. DE WORMS presented a petition from 800 merchants and others of Manchester, praying that the Government should place on record their communication with the other Great Powers for the purpose of making friendly representations to the Russian Government with regard to the persecution to which the Jews were subjected.

QUESTIONS.

In answer to a question from Mr. Bromley-Davenport, Mr. GLADSTONE said the Government would take into their consideration the reports, military and otherwise, regarding the Channel Tunnel, and would communicate their opinion to the House before any proceedings were taken on the private bills before the House. Questioned by Sir H. Wolff whether Lord Granville had written a letter to Mr. Errington to be shown as his authority in obedience to the House before any proceedings were taken on the private bills before the House. Questioned by Sir H. Wolff whether Lord Granville had written a letter to Mr. Errington to be shown as his authority in obedience to the House before any proceedings were taken on the private bills before the House.

THE ADDRESS.

The adjourned debate on the Address was resumed by Mr. Sexton, who maintained that every clause in Mr. McCarthy's amendment was a crime against the Irish Executive, and that every crime had been proved. Tracing the origin of the Land League, he asserted that its sole objects were to stop rack-renting and to convert occupiers into owners by buying out the landlords. If there had been no Land League, he said, there would have been no Land Act. But that Act only aimed at carrying out the first part of the League's programme, and it was when it continued to agitate for the second that the Government suppressed it. To illustrate the peaceful and constitutional character of the League he cited numerous extracts from its publications and speeches, and he contended, therefore, that the arrests were made on false and fraudulent pretences, in particular, Mr. Parnell's arrest. At the head of the League, he had been arrested because they had defied the Prime Minister. Of Mr. Forster's administration of the Coercion Acts and his treatment of the prisoners he spoke in terms of bitter complaint, and he said that the League was a "common-place, clumsy Cromwell." He denied that there had been any alteration in Mr. Parnell's policy after his arrest. Although he adhered to his belief that the land question could only be settled by the abolition of landlordism, it was not the test cases to ascertain what benefits the Land Act would actually confer on the people and to avoid the litigation which he foresaw would ensue. The "No-rent" manifesto—to the terms of which he strictly adhered—was a legitimate and legitimate request, he insisted, to the suppression of the Land League, but it was in the power of the Government to convert it into a de-lawful letter to-morrow by restoring the Constitution.

The necessity of that manifesto had been proved by what had occurred since, for the Land Act, he contended, was a dismal failure. In the first place, its cost was enormous, for though up to Christmas a rental only of £1,800 had been considered and a reduction of £400 offered, the Government had cost the country £200,000. In the second place, the provision as to arrears was most inadequate, and was enabling the landlords to evade the Act. But even were the Act carried out over the whole of those parts of Ireland to which it was applicable on the scale apparently adopted by the Sub-Commissioners, it would only effect a reduction of a million and a half in the rental of the country, and it was ludicrous to expect that this would settle the land question. As to the future, it was the duty of the people, he held, to go on refusing obedience to the landlords' demands, and he believed that the teaching and the moral force of the League would survive, notwithstanding the present suppression.

At the conclusion of Mr. Sexton's speech, shortly before 8 o'clock, the debate suddenly collapsed. No one rose to reply to him on the Treasury Bench, and after the usual pause the Speaker proceeded to put the question. Mr. McCarthy's amendment was negatived by 98 to 30, and a second division was afterwards taken on the Address, which was carried by 87 to 22.

THE MURDER OF CAPTAIN BROWNIE.

After this Sir J. HAY called attention to the circumstances attending the murder of Captain Brownie, and commented on the unsatisfactory character of our relations with France in the operations for the suppression of the slave trade.

Sir C. DILKE agreed that all must regret to find the flag of a great nation used for purposes of this kind, but France had always shown a disinclination to submit to restrictions. At the same time the French Government, though not prepared to come under positive treaty engagements, was ready to enter into communications with a view of doing all that was possible to put down the traffic.

Mr. BENTINCK thought that an expression of regret should be obtained from the French Government after such an insult had been offered to the British flag.

Mr. TRAVELLAVY denied that the British flag had been insulted, and pointed out that the French Government had immediately declared that the show had no right to carry the flag. Every possible reparation had been taken for

THE MURDER OF CAPTAIN BROWNIE.

the murder of Captain Brownie, whose services and character he warmly eulogised.

At this point the House was counted out, and adjourned at 20 minutes past 9 o'clock.

THE REVOLT IN AUSTRIA.

Telegraphing on Tuesday night the Standard correspondent at Sarajevo says:—

A number of insurgents have shown themselves at the railway terminus of Zenitza, in North Bosnia, and begun tearing up the rails, thus threatening the only existing line in this province. For the last fortnight, since the 9th Regiment left for Sarajevo, the whole line has been left entirely unprotected. Troops are now being hastily sent to Zenitza, to prevent any further attempts of the description in question. The insurgents have advanced round the roads to the south and west of Zenitza unsafe, and if they ever succeed in interrupting the railway communications with Austria, Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, would, for a time at least, be lost, and the entire garrison, who would be unable to procure provisions, could hardly fail to be captured.

It is clear that the plan of the insurgents is to surround Sarajevo from their base of operations near Zenitza and Foca, and in this they are being assisted, in the teeth of the Austrian authorities, by certain movements on the part of some of the population of this city itself. A striking proof of the existence of insurgent sympathisers in this city was given yesterday afternoon, when a large number of the Serbian inhabitants of this place followed a coffin to the Serbian Cemetery of Sarajevo. The suspicions of the police were somewhat aroused by the occurrence, and the coffin was taken to the cemetery instead of a corpse it contained only rifles. Further inquiry led to the conclusion that those rifles were intended to be used somewhat later by those who, as the keeping of arms is forbidden, hid upon the device of burying them for a time. The police have been busy in searching all the mourners at the late funeral, who, together with the officiating pope, have been arrested.

A few days ago an Austrian traveller called Gavril Michel, while on his way between Stolatz and Nevesine, was captured by the insurgents. The latter at once sent a message to his wife, to the effect that the husband would be killed unless ten thousand florins ransom were paid by a certain date. The wife was unable to raise more than four thousand florins, which she sent to the brigands. Next day she received the body of her husband, in a terribly mutilated condition. The greatest terrorism is being exercised over the whole villages. Merchants known to be wealthy are being singled out for capture and ransom, and, as in the above instance, if the ransom demanded is not paid, it may be expected that the captives will be killed.

The Austrian officers say that the insurgents are evidently pursuing Russian tactics. Their manner of fighting, and the way they reassemble after having been scattered, are said to be peculiarly Russian.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, TUESDAY.

The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe and the Hon. Horatia Stophord, and her Majesty walked and drove with Princess Louise, Mr. Bonython, Lady Cochrane, and the Misses Cochrane, and the Rev. Canon Prothero had the honour of dining with the Queen yesterday.

The Duke and Duchess of Leeds have arrived at 11, Grosvenor-crescent.

The Duke of Richmond and Gordon has left town for Goodwood Park, Sussex.

The Duke of Athole left town on Tuesday evening for Blair Athole. The Duchess, who is still in town, will join his Grace in a few days.

The Earl and Countess of Onslow have left London for the Continent.

The Earl of Wiltton remains in about the same condition. After being visited by his local medical advisers the following bulletin was issued at noon on Tuesday:—"The Earl of Wiltton has passed a quiet night. His lordship's general condition continues in the same state as the last report 10.30."

—The Duke of Connaught, the Duke of Cambridge, and the Duchess of Cambridge have been in the large library, which was partially draped with black cloth. At the head of the lady was the Earl's coronet upon a crimson pillow, and on the top was placed a mass of flowers; round the plate was a wreath of lilies of the Nile, and the shield and coat of arms on the lid of the coffin was surrounded by a wreath of eucharis amarantha and other flowers, and a wreath composed of camellias filled in with violets, lilies of the valley, and white azaleas. Down by the side of the stand were wreaths and floral designs were thrown upon the large cauldrons, which contained lighted tapers burning, one on each side of the coffin. Around were plants and flowers, and at the head of the coffin was a raised stand, upon which were many lighted tapers standing in candelabra, and at the foot of the coffin was a wreath, the gift of the household servants. The little church, situated at the north-west corner of the park, and containing many relics of the family of Lowther, wore a sombre aspect. The pulpit and reading-desk and the front of the seats were draped with black cloth. The family mausoleum was also draped with black cloth, the recess for the reception of the coffin being on the south side, at right angles with the sarcophagus containing the remains of William Earl of Lonsdale. At noon the funeral procession left the Castle, and proceeded to the mausoleum and the church, where within the space of 10 years three Earls of Lonsdale have been buried. Upon arriving at the church the coffin was deposited in the cauldron, the coronet-bearing standing in front, and after the funeral service had been read the coffin was placed in the mausoleum. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. T. B. Tylecote, the rector of Lowther.

The following gentlemen attended the funeral:—The Hon. H. G. Lowther (the new earl), the Hon. Charles Lowther, the Hon. W. Lowther, M.P., the Right Hon. James Lowther, M.P., the Right Hon. George C. Bentinck, M.P., the Hon. Sydney Herbert, the Hon. M. Herbert, the Right Hon. Gerard Noel, General Lowther, Rev. J. Lowther, Rev. T. B. Tylecote (rector), Rev. C. H. Baker, Rev. Stuart Holland Askham, Mr. Edward H. Ellis, Dr. Kingsley, Captain Fitzlanders, Mr. R. A. Robinson, Mr. Liddell, Dr. Isaac Whitelaw, Mr. William Little, Mr. James Hudson. In Perinth the Union Jack reversed floated half-mast high from the old church tower, and most of the shops were partially closed. The Countess of Lonsdale, accompanied by the Dowager Countess and other members of the family, reached Lowther Castle on Monday.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM THE "WORLD.")

The Prince of Wales, who has long been wishing to pay a compliment to the dramatic profession, has invited the principal gentlemen connected with it to dinner on Sunday next, the 19th inst., at Marlborough House. The Prince will be laid for thirty. Among the non-professional guests will be Prince Leiningen, Lord Aylesford, Dr. W. H. Russell, Mr. George Lewis, and a few others.

The secret of the Prince's personal popularity will be readily understood by those who read his speech at the Savage Club dinner. Composed with great tact and delivered with unfeigned geniality, it had an instantaneous success, and will doubtless have a lasting effect. The Prince "scored" heavily by that one speech, and enlisted a hundred light literary sharpshooters as ardent followers and admirers.

The wedding of the Duke of Albany—who had the misfortune to again lose his knee, and is quietly resting at Arolsen, the home of his bride-will, in all probability, be celebrated at the end of April, most likely in the last week. The Queen is understood to be averse to its taking place in May, the month in which the late Princess Charlotte was married to King Leopold.

Claremont, their future residence, as before stated, is being thoroughly overhauled, the drainage being put in as perfect a state as possible, and some structural alterations made in the interior of the mansion. The fine ball-room facing the lawn is being converted into a drawing-room. This is the chamber in which Mass was celebrated during the tenure of the French family—Louis Philippe, Queen Marie Antoinette, and the Orleans Princes.

In view of the vote for Prince Leopold, it may be useful to remember that in December, 1869, of the collapsed Irish Exhibition, Mr. Joseph Biggar wrote to a Dublin paper, from the secure haven of the Marquis of Londonderry, a letter in which he loyally remarked, "Towards Ireland the Royal Family is a foreign family, and the people wish to keep it in that position."

The kitchen department of the House of Commons has opened with a flourish of drums. A new dining-room has been opened westward, which, in turn, leads to a new smoking-room, which has been wrung out of the Commissioner of Works with great difficulty. It is a fine room, with two noble pictures depicting Kings Harold and Richard I. in *articulo mortis*. The more exacting smokers have demanded yet another room, which Mr. Shaw-Lefevre flatly refuses to concede, except in exchange. The Duke of Devonshire's former apartments, in some of which Ministers have also ensconced themselves.

Carrier-pigeons would be invaluable as aerial messengers in times of war, and the Admiralty and the War Office should lose no further time in introducing them into the navy and the army. Germany is alive to the service which trained birds could render upon an emergency, and her Minister, M. von Bismarck, has approved of the erection at Kiel of an "establishment" for carrier-pigeons, at an estimated outlay of over a thousand pounds.

There is a pretty bit of shady backwater at Cockham, with which every summer idler is familiar. It is known as The Strand, and well stocked with fish, it has yielded more litigation than sport to its owner. The Strand belonged originally to the Crown, and formed part of the Royal grant to the Earl of Orkney, by whose descendant it was sold to Mr. Bond. From Mr. Bond it passed to Mr. G. Bond, an ardent angler, who, in an effort to stake out his happy hunting-ground, got into interminable difficulties with the riparian owners.

An appeal, first to law and then to arbitration, involved an expense which far exceeded the amount of the purchase-money, and nearly ruined the angler. The latter is now menaced from a new side, and in the local court is tooth-and-nail defending his costly fishery against the encroachments by the villagers of Cockham.

It is generally known that the ranks of ardent dog-fanciers include many clergymen. At the East of England Dog Show at Colchester last Wednesday there were eleven representatives of the clerical order. Though a dog show, it was a meeting in support of tithes. Another equally well-known clergyman, wearing a long ulster and an eyeglass, was sauntering up and down in the company of a cigar, and watching the proceedings of his more active brother.

There was more active than in many clergymen amongst the visitors to the show, some dressed in the style characteristic of the most advanced Ritualist, and others wearing the more simple costume of the Low Churchman.

"Like begets like" is a generally recognised aphorism; but there are exceptions to all rules, and a remarkable illustration was afforded between the late Lord Lonsdale and his father. The latter, who will be better remembered, perhaps, as General Lowther, was as pious and as lugubrious as his light-hearted son was light-hearted, generous, and extravagant. How he squandered his enormous wealth broadcast to get into difficulties within a couple of years of his accession to the title is a story well associated therewith is well known.

The cost of hunting the Cotswolds country in such princely style, and the reckless manner in which he raced and betted on taking to the turf, alone made his high life a costly one. Income of £120,000 a year, which he could spend "without thinking about it." Then there was his yachting, and those extravagant "et ceteras" into which it is unnecessary to enter, that played such terrible havoc with his health and fortune.

It was only by the energetic action of Mr. James Lowther—who was left trustee with Mr. Stirling Crawford under his father's will—that the imperative retrenchment was brought about. In accomplishing this necessary change Mr. Lowther met with a willing helpmate in the beautiful Countess, who displayed an amount of self-sacrifice that few young wives in a similar exalted position would have consented to, by giving up much rare and costly jewelry that was still property for. The remarkable good sense she displayed on another occasion I recorded at the time, when, during the last Newmarket Houghton Meeting, she spoke her mind to Captain Macchell, and insisted upon his taking back Blue Blood, whom her husband purchased the night before with Valour, which was the last racehorse that ever carried Lord Lonsdale's colours. That was not the first occasion of Blue Blood coming into Lord Lonsdale's possession, as he formed one of a deal with his turf mentor at two years old for £8,000, according to report, which was £5,000 more than the horse cost when a yearling, owing to the prestige which surrounded him as half-brother to Doncaster. All the talent took exception to his looks at the time, and they were right; for, though now six years old, Blue Blood has only started three times, and never won a race!

Such is the enormous risk attending the blood-stock, that when two experts, like Lord Falmouth and Mr. Caledon Alexander, valued Lord Lonsdale's stud, which he gave up racing in the autumn of 1878, they priced Blue Blood at £300 only! The lot included many far more valuable animals, which it is unnecessary to recapitulate, minus, however, both Petrearch and Filigraim, who were a long way the best his lordship ever possessed. He gave £10,000 for the former at four years old; and after winning the Ascot Gold Cup of 1877, the Rous Memorial stakes at Ascot in 1878, and other races in the interim, sold him to Lord Cathorpe for £3,000. Filigraim was "plucked up a bargain" by Captain Macchell for 150 guineas at

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 28—27, 1882.

THE LORDS AND THE COMMONS.

Lord Salisbury's emphatic declaration that Mr. Gladstone's motion must be regarded as a direct attack upon the constitutional position of the House of Lords, would of itself put almost insurmountable difficulty in the way of any satisfactory arrangement. On the one hand, it stirs up the bitterest feeling of party and of class among Lord Salisbury's own followers; on the other, it would make concession coming from the Ministerial side seem like an acknowledgment that such an attack had been intended and had to be abandoned. Friday was the first day when Lord Salisbury had an opportunity of showing what his leadership of the Conservative party was likely to be on any really important occasion; and he showed only too clearly how unfitted he is by temper and by turn of mind for such a place. Shakespeare has a Salisbury who is addressed as "Thou mad misleader of thy brain-sick son." We have a Salisbury now whom it would be hardly beyond the bounds of propriety or of fairness to call the mad misleader of an occasionally brain-sick party. On Friday the House of Commons, without the slightest derogation night, without the slightest derogation from the position into which they had been thrust so suddenly a few evenings before. The Prime Minister and the Government had interposed with the whole force of their responsibility and authority, and a moment's cool consideration would have told the Peers that the country would expect them to give way. If they still believed in the necessity for the appointment of a Committee of landowners to inquire into the working of a Land Act that has only just begun to be worked, they could have delivered that and their souls be delivered that on the Government, and not on the House of Lords, would rest the blame of having prevented such a committee from being appointed. They could have withdrawn from the controversy with the expression of that famous hope that things might be none the worse that day twelve-month, which if events turned out one way would be a pious wish fulfilled, and if the other way a prophecy; but they have chosen their ground under Lord Salisbury's guidance, and we suppose they mean to hold it. They cannot be said to have been in any doubt as to the probable consequences of their unflinching determination. Not only that the Prime Minister's announced on persevering, but it was that very announcement which, according to Lord Salisbury, induced them to persevere. Not only did they persist in spite of the Prime Minister's declaration that the course they threatened would be disastrous to the cause of order and good government in Ireland, but they made that very declaration another reason for their persistence. The English people would not have seen in the investigations of any amateur Committee of the House of Lords any serious menace to the stability of the Free Trade policy. But the Irish tenant-farmers will undoubtedly see in the appointment of a Committee of land-owning Peers to inquire into the working of the Land Act a very serious menace to the stability and the effective operation of that Act. Is it possible to suppose that such a step as the appointment of such a Committee will not drive many a tenant-farmer still inclined to loyalty and the cause of order to declare in his despair that, after all, Mr. Parnell was right, that the House of Lords are too strong for Mr. Gladstone's best intentions, and that the Land League is the only body to which the Irish occupier can look for protection? We cannot but have been unwilling that Mr. Gladstone should be appointed to allow the Lords' Committee to be appointed without obtaining from the House of Commons an emphatic declaration which shall relieve him and the Government from all share in the responsibility for so ill-omened a piece of work. If the Prime Minister could have seen his way to arrive at the same result by a declaration on the part of the Government without the necessity for a formal resolution and a debate in the House of Commons, we should have been glad; and such a course would have been possible, and might have been adopted, but for the unhappy precipitancy of the House of Lords on Friday. If such an arrangement, of which even now we are impossible the blame must rest altogether on the House of Lords. Unfortunately the consequences will not have to be borne by them. A wasted Session will not trouble the Peers in particular. The inevitable postponement of most important legislation will not affect them more than it affects other people; not nearly so much as it will affect many other people. We may as well look the whole business straight in the face and recognise its full menace. If the Opposition, including the Irish party, with whom they are in more or less cordial alliance, are in more or less powers of debate with should use their energy and perseverance anything like the energy and perseverance that are expected of them, the real business of the Session may be regarded as already doomed to postponement. The Conservatives have in any case no particular wish to help the Government in useful legislation—the Irish party are always ready to obstruct. Lord Salisbury has

given an incitement to both hands which they will not be slow to act upon. They can, if they choose, prolong the debate until the eve of the Easter Recess. Many of the Tory party are loud in their proclamation that they can do this, and that they will do it. If the House meets after Easter with the discussion of the new Rules for its business still before it, then all we can say is that it will be impossible for the Government to pass one single measure this Session of all those which were announced in the Speech from the Throne. What wonder if people should begin to ask themselves whether there is really benefit enough to be had from the existence of a House of Peers to compensate for the injuries which its capricious and thoughtless action may sometimes inflict?—Daily News.

RUMOURS OF A DISSOLUTION.

The Daily Telegraph of yesterday says:—In political circles last night a belief was prevalent that, owing to the action adopted by the House of Lords on Friday last in appointing a committee of inquiry into the operation of the Land Act, and the consequent difficulty of continuing the government of Ireland, Mr. Gladstone had determined to place his resignation in the hands of Her Majesty. Various conjectures are rife as to the immediate result of Mr. Gladstone's resignation, but in well-informed quarters it is believed that any attempt to form a new Liberal Ministry under Lord Hartington would fail, owing to the defection of the Radical section of the Cabinet. It is thought more probable that the crisis will be left to be settled by an appeal to the country, and that with this view Parliament will be dissolved at an early date.

ANGLO-FRENCH COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

M. Tirard's Bill regulating the commercial relations between France and England has been well received thus far. The Committee to which it was referred on Thursday, after it had been promulgated in the Chamber of Deputies, has presented a favourable report upon it, and after some discussion and after an authoritative explanation of its terms, it has been passed by the Chamber without a division. No time is to be lost in making further progress with it. M. Tirard does not look upon it as a final settlement of the question which he has not given up the hope that the treaty negotiations may yet be renewed, and may be brought to a favourable conclusion. His Bill has been constructed to meet the emergency of the moment, to prevent, that is to say, the application of the general tariff to English goods on and after the 1st of March. The most favoured nation treatment which it affords to England carries with it a prolongation of the existing treaty until May 15. This was assumed by M. Rouvier, and after some doubt had been expressed by M. Peytral whether M. Rouvier's interpretation was correct, it was expressly confirmed by M. Tirard. The conventions, which have already been renewed with other nations, stipulate, in their case, for the maintenance until May 15 of the Anglo-French tariff of 1860. England, therefore, if she is to be as well treated as any other nation, will so long enjoy the existing tariff, not by virtue of a further prolongation of the treaty beyond March 1, but simply as a first instalment of the benefit to which the bill entitles her. But, although M. Tirard hopes for a treaty with England, he does not think that the business can, by any possibility, be concluded before May 15. If it could, the inference would be clear that the past negotiations had been mismanaged, and that M. Tirard is naturally unwilling to admit. Why the negotiations have failed or on what basis they are to be renewed, M. Tirard does not say. We accept M. Tirard's Bill as containing the best arrangement it was in his power to make. That he has considered French interests rather than English interests in constructing it can hardly be alleged as a fault in a French Minister. It is clear that the Bill is a good deal less generous than it appears to be. English goods, under whatever tariff they had been placed, would have found a ready market in France through Belgium or some other country with which a treaty had been concluded. The French seaport towns would have been the chief sufferers from the change. The protectionists would have gained little or no more than the Bill will secure for them. They would still have had to contend against the same rivals, with no other advantage than the somewhat more round-about, and therefore more costly, method of transport by which English goods must have been conveyed. We have no wish to insist upon such rights as those which the Committee's report on the bill admits in our favour. France, the report says, not overlook the fact that England, by widely opening her own market to French imports, has some claim to be at least as well treated as other nations, which are less generous in this respect than she is. If England allows a free entry to French or to any other imports she does so entirely on her own account. It suits her to purchase French goods on cheap and favourable terms rather than to go without them or to make a more costly substitute for them at home. She seeks no return favours. If France prefers to pay a higher price than she need pay for the cotton and woollen goods she consumes and to have them of a worse quality, she has a full right of choice. We look forward with satisfaction to the prospect of M. Tirard's bill, and to the renewal of the treaty negotiations. What need of a treaty which must necessarily be one-sided, and which France, therefore, can conclude on her own account at any moment she wishes for it?—Times.

"A MOST-FAVOURLED-NATION TREATY."

Confusion of ideas and consequent misapprehension appear with strange persistency and injurious iteration in the public conceptions of what is termed for convenience a most-favoured-nation treaty. It is now probable that a treaty of this kind will regulate our relations with France, and the questions that put to Sir Charles Dilke on Friday night show a distraction of mind on the subject that would be truly astonishing in a less distracted Assembly. The Paris correspondent of the Times can himself descend to the assertion that "it is difficult to see how England, after refusing terms better than a most-favoured-nation clause can now accept the latter." To be able to

apply such an argument to such a point there must be most lamentable confusion of ideas. We seek a commercial treaty with a country in order that the inhabitants of that country may purchase of us goods at less than exorbitant rates, and that we may not be excluded altogether by prohibitive rates. Such is the function of a commercial treaty. But we seek a most-favoured-nation clause for altogether other reasons. By its means we endeavour to appear in that foreign market on equal terms with other foreign purveyors. The two objects are perfectly distinct and different. We are wanting to sell our goods in a market town. On the one hand we say to the gate-keeper, Do not you charge so high an entrance-fee that we shall be forced to put so high a price on our goods that purchasers in the market will be less willing or even unable to buy. On the other hand we say, Do not charge us more than you charge other purveyors from the outside. The two matters remain totally distinct not only in degree but in kind, and to confound together two objects so perfectly and fundamentally different is to create misconceptions and mistakes of which an intelligent people should be heartily ashamed. We wish to sell our goods in France; and we do not wish to be handicapped by paying larger entrance fees than are paid by other foreign purveyors. We wish to compete in supplying France with what she buys from abroad; but we wish most certainly to compete on equal terms with third nations. This is all to the advantage of France. For this purpose, but for this alone, we require a "most-favoured-nation" treaty. And this covers a most important division of our trade relations, and one of the interests of which we cannot afford to ignore. As for the tariff under which we shall enter France in common with other foreigners that is a matter which affects France far more than it affects us. The "better terms" we hear so much about are better for us only in a minor degree, but in a very major degree for France. A very serious state of affairs will be surely induced in France if she finds herself stranded without facilities of commercial intercourse with her neighbours. For instance, her wine-growing industry is already in a condition of absolute shrinkage, and some of the older vine-growing districts have lately survived in partial prosperity simply by the introduction of the new industry of wine manufacture. This substitute will find itself in serious jeopardy of extinction when by the injurious political exigencies of French Ministries England is driven to open up and develop direct trade in wines with Spain and Italy, and her own great southern colonies. If the French determine to curtail their freedom of profiting as a nation by unrestricted exchange they curtail their opportunities of prosperous growth. We suffer to the extent to which this failing prosperity of a near market curtails the consumption of our goods in that market. We shall also suffer if and whenever the high tariff lessens or altogether stops the consumption by the French of certain classes of our goods. All this is so far bad for us, but all this is far worse and far more injurious to France. We retain, while France gives up, the alternative of exchanging in numerous other markets what we do not want for what we do want; and what we can manufacture or supply cheaper for what others can manufacture or supply cheaper; and so we gain by the inevitable profits accruing to all exchange. These are the main economic results of no commercial treaty; and they are results which in course of time will lead the French to reconsider their position and attempt to open up another or to remedy the evils that necessarily arise when political exigencies interfere to the detriment of industrial progress. In the meantime, it would be ignorant folly on our part to give up the other of the two conditions of the successful supply of foreign markets—the condition, that is, which places us on an equality with all other foreign purveyors. But the two matters are distinct, and to confound them together is to breed misconceptions that may be fatal and must be injurious to much commercial and industrial enterprise.—Pall Mall Gazette.

THE TIGHT-LACING MANIA.

The clever and suggestive lecture on the "Dress of the Period," delivered on Saturday by Mr. Frederick Treves to an audience which crowded the Kensington Town Hall to overflowing, serves as an illustration, were any needed, of the deep and perennial interest attaching to the subject of dress.—How far our present free condition is from the imaginary state of perfect restraint was abundantly illustrated by the diagrams, casts, and models exhibited by Mr. Treves in support of his views. At least in civilized life, it admits theoretically that tight lacing is injurious, just as every woman denies practically that she laces tight. Many deny it in perfect good faith. They have a sort of impression that a corset is a natural thing, at least in civilized life, like a shoe, to protect the foot or something on the head to cover it from rain and sunshine. Because they have been inured to the construction they believe it to be necessary. These probabilities are among the least culpable in respect of tight lacing, and yet they are bad examples. They do themselves a little harm, but not enough to produce patent and unmistakable results, and they encourage the use of stays amongst young women. But that tight lacing exists at present to an extent nothing short of frightful may be proved beyond all doubt to any one who chooses to see. Girls may be seen by hundreds walking excite horror and alarm in the beholder. The size of a normal healthy woman, at least in civilized life, is like a shoe, to protect the foot or something on the head to cover it from rain and sunshine. Because they have been inured to the construction they believe it to be necessary. These probabilities are among the least culpable in respect of tight lacing, and yet they are bad examples. They do themselves a little harm, but not enough to produce patent and unmistakable results, and they encourage the use of stays amongst young women. 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Great Britain.

LONDON, MARCH 27—28, 1882.

THE CLOTURE DEBATE.

It is a noteworthy feature of the present debate that, the Parliaments excepted, there is a general disposition on the part of the House to admit the necessity for some reform in procedure. Nor can it be overlooked that, should the smallness of Mr. Gladstone's majority make his expected victory little less damaging than a pronounced defeat, his position as Prime Minister will have been shaken to the foundation by those on whose behalf he has occupied his energies to the exclusion of the other and scarcely less important items in the Liberal programme. Now, whether or not Mr. Gladstone understood from the first that he might expect ingratitude from that quarter, he must by this time be convinced that they whom he has assisted by every means in his power are not prepared to give up anything to him in return. Obstructives they were and obstructives they will remain until the end of the chapter. On the other hand, the legitimate Opposition have not obstructed the Government, but throughout the Sessions of 1880 and 1881, constantly voted with their opponents, even at the cost of rendering their amiable chief liable to the charge of lukewarmness. In all the divisions which led up to the Speaker's "coup d'état," and to the subsequent temporary restoration of order, the followers of Sir Stafford Northcote did, in fact, follow the manly and upright example set them by the front bench on their own side, and helped to swell the Government majorities. Strangely enough, the ingratitude which the Irish Members have shown in return for the labours of the Opposition has been displayed temporarily in power. They would probably have been prepared to fall in with any reasonable Ministerial proposition calculated to put a stop to wilful obstruction. But when they found that the Government were determined not to trust them, but to punish all for the sins of a few, they felt that the time had arrived when patriotism demanded that a final stand should be made against the assumption of arbitrary power by the Ministry of the day. What argument could be more fallacious than that which contends that the evident sense of four hundred and one individuals can be proved by the vote of the odd unit? A two-thirds majority, or something less than a two-thirds majority, might be accepted by the Opposition as a fair test of the wishes of the House. On such a question, however, as that of imposing silence on a minority, practically equal in numbers to the controlling power, the plan is opposed to the spirit if not to the letter of government by party. Would Mr. Gladstone be satisfied with the verdict of a casting vote in favour of the first of his resolutions? Would he be prepared to accept such a confidence of the House of Commons as were the forthcoming division to yield such a result? One of the speakers, in the interest of the Government, on Monday night predicted that "the objections of the Conservatives to the Cloture would only last until they had the opportunity of applying it to a Liberal minority; then it would vanish, as if by a charm." Surely that is as powerful a reason as could be urged against its adoption. It is not for the general good that either of the great parties should be at liberty to quell their opponents without a fair hearing, from one general election to the next. Were a choice of evils submitted to the nation, they would probably be inclined to endure an excess of talk rather than submit to the liberty of discussion placed at the mercy of the Leader of the House of Commons, to whichever party he might, for the time being, belong.—*Daily Telegraph.*

ITALIAN PROSPERITY.

Financial prosperity may not be a certain sign of national stability, but without it a State can hope for contentment within or security from without. The account of the Italian Budget given on Monday showed that the Government of King Humbert has at length reached that enviable condition. Year after year financial equilibrium had been promised. Some unforeseen event at home or abroad always occurred to impose supplementary burdens. Now the kingdom appears to have arrived at the stage, fortunately not unknown to British Chancellor of the Exchequer, when estimates of revenue prove to have been faintly framed. By an opportune coincidence, the official announcement of this novelty in the experience of the Roman Treasury comes at the moment of the celebration in Sicily of the great event which nearly doubled the dominions of Victor Emmanuel. General Garibaldi twenty-two years ago accomplished an enterprise which must in any case have covered his name with military glory. It did not equally follow that his deed of daring would promote the welfare of the territories he annexed. Gloomy prophecies were poured forth, both inside and outside, of the disaster from the attempt to amalgamate suppers. Although the experiment has not been without interruptions, Signor Magliani's statement of Saturday proves that it has at least not left Italy poorer. Other testimony is present in

profusion of the national regeneration, in which the achievement of the spring of 1860 played a principal part. Italians of every portion of the peninsula are manifestly conscious of a larger life since Italy became one from Milan to Cape Passaro. The Italian People has grown visibly before Europe in stature since its restoration to the rank of a nation. The party of reaction itself has ceased to imagine the possibility of a reversal of the acts by which the period of anarchy and separatism was terminated. Any hope it retained of troubling rather than cancelling the final issue, rested chiefly on the apparent inability of the united monarchy to live within its means. Anticipations of confusion and discord arising from this source will have been profitably checked by the balance of revenue and expenditure for the past year, and the computations for the next.—*Times.*

THE ARTISTS' SEASON.

A philosopher commended by Mr. Carlyle wished that "the devil would fly away with the fine arts." Whatever we may think of this sentiment, it is certain that the burden would at this moment be considerable. Yes, whether we like it or not, the season of the fine arts is beginning, and, reversing the usually quoted arrangement, is upon the Philistines. On Sunday and Monday, and on Friday last, and doubtless at other times, pictures were exposed in studios and in halls, in a series of private views. There was a sound of revelry in Kensington High-street, and the Town-hall was thronged with persons whose original costumes and independent coiffures, not to mention their outlay on daffodils, proclaimed their interest in art. Many pictures were hanging on the walls, but gaslight is not always favourable to pictures. On Sunday and Monday painters and sculptors, or many of them, received their friends, and displayed the results of their toil. It may be doubted whether this is a very wise custom. Pictures, perhaps, look best when seen in the place of their birth, as priories and other wildflowers look better in the woods than when they have been transplanted to the huckster's stalls. Pictures are very much influenced by their environment. In auction rooms they seem dingy, and put on a false air of having been taken, along with some Amontillado and a gross of violins, in a bill transaction. When Mr. Albert Grant's collection of Academy successes was sold at Christie's some years ago it was a thing to make one despair of our country's art. Were these things, dismal or garish, the late favourites of the public, the pictures that town and country cousins elbow each other in the effort to behold? On the walls of the Academy, pictures certainly look less dingy and forlorn than they do in a sale-room. But they are often so hung that a bright piece of colour kills something like grey, or a big picture obscures a little one, or a popular favourite attracts a crowd which never notices the modest little gem, its neighbour. There are pictorial Jumbos every year which succeed through some accidental circumstance, become the topic of gossip, and eclipse everything else. In the artist's studio paintings are at home, and are beheld in the light under which they were designed. This is all very pleasant for the spectators if they happen to know anything about art, but the stream of criticism in the style of Rosey Mackenzie is perhaps less agreeable to the artist. The beautiful ladies who all, like Miss Mackenzie in the "Newcomers," murmur, "How soft, how sweet," flow through the studios. Any better informed and more searching criticism must be still less acceptable to an artist whose work is done, and who cannot alter it, even if he wishes. On the whole, the balance of arguments seems to make against the institution of "Studio Sunday." But probably there is a good deal to be said on the other side, or the private view would never have come into existence. More than a month must pass before the Academy opens its doors. This seems so far, like a respite. We shall hear enough about pictures from the first of May to Ascot, and even later, from country visitors to London. Why should Art torment us before our time? Yet already all the more famed artists' works have been described and discussed. Mr. Burne Jones is said to have almost ready a view of the Tree of Forgiveness, a tree which may have some remote connection with that of the knowledge of Good and Evil. Sir Frederick Leighton's Phryne is sure to be beautiful, but what about the moral critics who some years ago made such a pother over a drawing of Mr. Burne Jones's in the gallery of the Old Water-Colour Society? There are critics who constantly forget that searching remark of the philosopher, that after all we are all naked under our clothes. The ancient Greeks, and Phryne especially, made the Eleusinian festival a pretext for being undraped in fine weather. By the way, what a topic for our archaeological artists does the Eleusinian festival afford! All Athenian men, or at least all the initiated, had to go down and take a solemn bath in the sea, each man swimming in company with a pig, the animal sacred to Demeter. The scene must have been most humorous. It appears that this year we are to expect no story-picture, with a narrative and a sermon in each compartment, from Mr. Frith. Mrs. Butler is to illustrate, by a fine incident from the Transvaal war, the noble motto *Floreat Etona*. "We must be in the first rank," cried one Eton boy to another at Laing's Nek, and then fell dead, struck by a bullet. The enemies of Eton may grant that, if she does less than her duty to science, she certainly expects and teaches her soldier sons to be in the first rank, like Forbes in Afghanistan, and Elwes at Laing's Nek. And this is no inconsiderable educational service to the country.—*Daily News.*

FASHIONABLE INTELLIGENCE.

The Prince and Princess of Wales visited the studios of Mr. J. E. Millais, R.A., and of Mr. and Mrs. Jossling on Monday afternoon. Their Royal Highnesses, attended by Lady E. Kingscote and Colonel A. Ellis, dined with the Russian Ambassador at Chessam House in the evening.

The marriage of Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, and Princess Helen of Waldeck will, it is expected, take place on or about the 27th of April, at Windsor Castle, and accordingly preparations are being made. The ceremony, the details of which will be precisely similar to those carried out at the nuptials of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught in March, 1878. About Easter Tuesday the chapel will be closed for the purpose of making room for the new service. The wedding gifts to Princess Helen will be a diamond bracelet, which is now being subscribed for, and will be presented by the residents of Windsor.—*Morning Post.*

The *Pall Mall Gazette* is informed that the Queen has purchased the estate of Claremont, which is now her own private property, like Balmoral and Osborne. Claremont was a residence bought by the Government as a residence for the Prince and Princess of Wales, the death of King Leopold, in 1885, an Act of Parliament was passed granting it to the Queen for her life, after which it was to revert to the country. Her Majesty has, therefore, bought the reversion of the property, which is merely encumbered by her own life interest.

The Countess of Ilchester arrived in Belgrave-square on Monday from Abbotsbury Castle, Dorset.

The Hon. Percy Wyndham, M.P., succeeds to the barony of Wyndham, and his Households on the retirement of Sir Reginald Graham.

The marriage of the Rev. W. A. Pursey-Cust, eldest son of the Very Rev. the Dean of York and Lady Emma Pursey-Cust, with Lucy Caroline, second daughter of Major-General Sir William Jervois, G.C.M.G., C.B., R.E., Governor of South Australia, was solemnised at St. Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide, South Australia, on Tuesday, February 14.

A marriage, says the *Post*, is arranged to take place at the residence of Mr. Andrew Ward, K.C.B., son of General Sir Elward Ward, R.H.B., and Miss MacCall, daughter of Colonel MacCall, of Elibank, Ascot, and 31, Chapel-street, Belgrave.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

We have reason to believe that no decision has been arrived at by the Cabinet on the question of renewing the Coercion Acts for Ireland.

Mr. Opposition benches it is estimated that, including Conservatives, Land Leaguers, and a few Liberals, 290 members will vote for Mr. Marriot's amendment.

We understand that Mr. Shaw, Colonel Colthurst, Mr. Mitchell-Henry, Mr. J. Smith, and the other members of the Irish members sitting on the Liberal benches below the gangway will vote with the Government on the first resolution of the Procedure Rules.

It is expected that the Committee of the House of Lords will endeavour to make a report on the purchase clauses of the Irish Land Act before Easter.

It is rumoured that a practical joke of a somewhat serious character has been perpetrated at the expense of the member for Evesham. A notice has been handed in to the Clerk at the table in the name of Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, which duly appears in the votes, purporting to give notice that he will "call attention to the extraordinary information shown by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and by the Secretary of State for India, with regard to important interests under their charge." It is said that the signature is not in Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett's handwriting, the obvious intention being to bring the hon. member into ridicule.

We understand there is no truth in the statement of a Madrid paper, telegraphed by Reuters, that an English Commission is to be sent to Madrid to investigate proposals for a Commercial Treaty with Spain.

A remarkable combination of opposition has been formed against the Judgments (Inferior Courts) Bill. Mr. Callan, Mr. Warton, Mr. Webster, and Mr. Dick Peddie have given notice of the rejection of the Bill. The Lord Advocate will move several amendments, while the Solicitor-General for Ireland has expressed his full approval of the measure, the object of which is to make the inferior Courts in Great Britain and Ireland run in three kingdoms.

A circular convening a meeting of members of the House of Commons who are favourable to religious equality has been signed by Messrs. Henry R. Chads, Henry Lee, Alfred Illingworth, L. L. Dillwyn, Dick Peddie, Charles H. James, Sir Wilfred Lawson, Hugh Mason, A. McArthur, and Arthur Pease. The object of the meeting is to consider the Bills relating to ecclesiastical questions which are treated by the Government as a matter of course, and to move amendments, while the Solicitor-General for Ireland has expressed his full approval of the measure, the object of which is to make the inferior Courts in Great Britain and Ireland run in three kingdoms.

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IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock. Lord STRATHMORE and CAMPBELL gave notice that on Thursday he will ask whether the Government are prepared to give any information with respect to the alleged passage of Russian ships with armed men through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. Lord GRANVILLE, replying to Lord de la Warr, stated that there had been telegraphic communications in reference to the concession to M. René Duplessis of exportation districts in the Agency of Tunis. Her Majesty's Government had yet received no copy of the concession, and as they were still in communication on the subject with the French Government it would be premature at present to publish the correspondence. Their Lordships adjourned at 25 minutes past 5 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

The SPEAKER took the chair at four o'clock. Some 50 questions were addressed to various members of the Government, and it was half-past 5 o'clock before the Orders of the Day were reached. Almost the only question of general interest was put by Mr. Monk in reference to the new Parcel Post. Mr. Fawcett explained that his proposal had been sanctioned by the Treasury. The inland post will carry a maximum weight of 7 lb. at a charge of 1s., with a descending scale for lesser weights, and it will be linked with an International Post extending to all European countries, except Russia, and to Egypt and Asiatic Turkey. As an illustration of the scale for this he said that a parcel of 3 kilograms (6½ lb.) would be conveyed to France for 1s. 9d.

In answer to Sir S. Northcote, Mr. GLADSTONE said that Miscellaneous Estimates, including the Education vote, would be taken on Monday and Tuesday.

The Duke of Albany's Establishment Bill had been read a second time.

THE CLOTURE.

The adjourned debate on the *cloture* was resumed by Sir H. FRANKLAND, who pointed out that after the speeches of Lord Hartington and Sir W. Hart, the object of the Government was no longer to be represented as the extinction of obstruction, but was simply to give the majority power to stop discussion which was neither obstructive nor repetition. He protested that he would prefer to leave the subject to the House, and to the mixture of two authorities, and, enlarging on the difficulty of ascertaining the "evident sense" of the House, he pointed out that, though the division might show the Speaker to be wrong, yet his decision would be completely nullified. The significance of the rule, he remarked, was increased by the speeches of the Ministers in and out of Parliament which left no doubt that it was to be worked for the purpose of passing party measures, and that, led as it might, therefore, all on their opponents to assist them. There had been no departure by the great body of members from the old understanding by which debates were brought to a close; and there was no real motive for reversing the old tradition of Parliament to quicken the accomplishment of a party programme.

Mr. DONOHUE thought that the extreme alarm with which the proposal was regarded was founded on a confusion of terms and ideas. The traditional Parliamentary freedom of speech was not the right of unrestricted eloquence, but the right to discuss any political subject and to express any political opinion without fear of consequences. The sole object of the rule was to bring a debate to a close, and a subject had been completely exhausted and was ripe for a decision, and the abuse of it which had been conjured up would require the concurrence of an infatuated Minister, a dishonest Speaker, a blind and reckless majority, and a torpid constitution. There was, he pointed out, a power of closure—*as preferred to call it*, on the authority of Shakespeare and Pope—in "counts-out," and the 5.45 rule on Wednesday.

Sir J. MONROE admitted the necessity of considerable change in the rules, but expressed his great regret that the Government had presented their proposals in the form of a gag and manacle to diminish the strength of one party to resist the other, and he complained also that the House was not free to consider the other rules, most of which he heartily approved.

Mr. WOODHOUSE regretted the necessity of making the change, but entertained no doubt that it was the very least which would suffice to check the growing danger to the efficiency and dignity of Parliament. Mr. Grantham, on the other hand, held that the real evil might be met by other measures less objectionable, and Mr. Rogers contended that the rule was but a revival, in a modified form, of the power possessed by Speakers. Mr. J. A. CAMPBELL held that such a rule as this ought not to be imposed on the House, except by general consent, and preferred a three to one majority rule to a form so full of anomalies as the present one.

Mr. ANDERSON also opposed the resolution, asserting that it was not he, but the leaders of his party who had changed their minds when they introduced a proposal which they formerly opposed, and which was antagonistic to the principle of the *cloture*. He admitted that something must be done, but the *cloture* would do nothing to save time, and if legitimately applied would not have advanced the business of the House by a single hour. Except it were to pass a new Coercion Bill, he could not understand why the Government asked for the *cloture* in a form so repugnant to many of their own party—not less than one hundred, he said; but if it were adopted it should be accompanied by safeguards, such as short Parliaments, to make it sure that the arrogant majority truly represented the country. The *cloture* would increase the length of speeches, would lead to prearranged debates, and would obliterate private members altogether. But as the Government presented the question as one of confidence he could not vote against them, though he could not vote for the *cloture*.

Mr. NORTHCOKE foresaw that the operation of the rule would deprive the leaders of the Opposition of the opportunity to make the protection of minorities—and asked why, if it was not intended to oppress minorities, the Resolution should not say so.

Mr. WHITEHEAD thought the fears of the Opposition exaggerated, while their estimate of the difficulties was inadequate. Dilating on the dangers which threatened the House from obstruction and the undue prolongation of debate, he repeated Mr. Dodson's contention that abuse of the power was most improbable. As to the two-third majority, he saw no advantage to be gained by departing from the old rules, and he pointed out that a proportional majority would be more tyrannical than a bare majority. He admitted, however, that he did not expect too much from the proposal—though he contended, in opposition to Sir R. Cross and others, that the subsequent rules would not touch obstruction—but he supported it in the hope that it would bring back some measure of the self-restraint which the House was in danger of losing.

Mr. MCCARTHY denied that obstruction had been active in this Parliament as the last, when those who resorted to this mode of opposition had the assistance and the counsel of some eminent members of the present Government. As to the present Parliament, the only cause and occasion of obstruction was the Coercion Bill. The opposition of the Irish members might be got rid of by a change in the mode of governing Ireland, and he put it to the House whether it was worth departing from the ancient ways of Parliament to

meet a state of things which it was to be hoped would not be permanent. At the same time, as he showed by relating several amusing passages of Parliamentary history, something in the nature of obstruction had always existed even before the Reform Bill. Sir W. H. DYKE, speaking from experience, said that a "Whip" maintained that the *cloture* would not touch the evils under which the House was labouring, while it must lead ultimately to serious demoralization. Under the operation of the Rule there must always be an irritated minority, and the difficulty of managing it and managing its business must, therefore, be greatly increased. On the motion of Mr. BRIGHT the debate was further adjourned until Thursday.

Some other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned at 26 minutes past 2 o'clock.

MORE OUTRAGES IN IRELAND.

At one o'clock on Monday morning a six-inch metal shell was thrown into the residence of Messrs. Henry Lucas Brothers, Dunmanway, Letterkenny. A terrific explosion ensued, demolishing two rooms. The inmates, who occupied distant apartments, escaped uninjured. Messrs. Lucas are extensive farmers.

A Ballinacree correspondent writes:—Yesterday (Sunday) afternoon an attempt was made to blow up the house occupied by Mr. John Ross Mason, agent to Lord Clonmore at Weston, Ahascragh. Some dynamite had been placed near the drawing-room window, and it exploded about three o'clock, with a noise which was heard several miles off. Mr. Mason, just at that time, was in the house at the time, but escaped uninjured. Part of the wall was blown down, and all the windows in the house were broken. Mr. Paul, resident magistrate, visited the place during the day, but no arrests have as yet been made.

ALLEGED FENIAN PLOTS IN LONDON.

It is stated that information of an alarming character has reached some of the authorities with reference to alleged Fenian designs in London. The police force at the docks has been increased to 600 men, who mount duty soon after dusk. All the entrances to the docks are specially guarded by picked reliable police. In addition to these precautions, the water-work and the shipping in the docks are watched by special police in galleys throughout the night. It is stated that the secret information which reached the authorities before the recent outbreak of fire, about the some serious designs were contemplated at the docks, did not point to Messrs. Kirkaldy's engineering works as the place where the conflagration might be expected, but to Messrs. Bell, Burt, and Hayward's place for the peking and drying of iron. Had the conflagration occurred there, it is stated that the fire would have been most disastrous, and in all possibility the Volunteers' Armory, in the confusion which would have ensued, might have been easily ransacked. Over this place, however, a guard was kept that night, and there is believed may have prevented an incendiary fire at that spot. The authorities are reluctant as to the full grounds for all the extra precautions, but it is stated among the officials that the object of the plot was to blow up the information received, is that it intended to blow the dock tunnel up with dynamite. If such a thing as this had been accomplished, the loss of life and destruction of property must have been serious. The docks are not a mile in length, through which the railway runs to North Woolwich. It branches off near to the Customs House Dock, and runs under the docks to Silvertown. The docks over the railway tunnel are 40ft. deep in water, and it is estimated that the Fenian intention to blow it up about midday. The volume of water would have been terrific, and had such a plan been carried out, as the country lies low, thousands of families sleeping unaccounted for, and the docks must have been inundated and drowned.

A HOAX AT SHREWSBURY.—On Thursday last a stranger appeared at Shrewsbury, representing that he was employed by a gentleman named Bradbury or Carrington, who had purchased an estate near Hadnall—five miles off—to require certain tradesmen in the town to assist him in his new residence on Friday morning, to receive orders for certain repairs which were necessary to be done on his newly-acquired property. One resident had an order for 8,000 yards of fencing; another received an order for a deep well; a third was ordered to glaze all the dilapidated windows in the house; a fourth had an order to paint the front walls; while a fifth was directed to provide a brass barrel pump, and so on. At each establishment the speaker visited an arrangement was made with the proprietor to come to Hadnall by the 11.45 train on Friday morning, and a promise was given that a trap should be ready at the railway station to meet him and convey him to the residence of his new customer. In almost all cases the visitor, after giving the orders, pulled out his purse, expressed his doubts as to whether he had sufficient in his pocket to pay for his lunch, and most of the individuals visited doubtless thinking of the "big job" to which they had appeared, and could not wait for the train, but took vehicles on Friday morning and drove over from Shrewsbury to Hadnall; while others, furnished with patterns of their stock, took train to the same destination. On arriving at the little country station they found that the promised conveyance was not in readiness, and inquiries soon convinced them that they had been the victims of a well-planned hoax. Their disappointment can be better imagined than described, but worse than the vexatious "chaff" to which they had to submit on their return from their fellow townsmen.

JUNCO AT SEA.—The *Daily Telegraph* publishes the following special messages:—*Off the Lizard, Monday (2.30 p.m.)*—All well on board *Assrian Monarch*. Wind N.E., still blowing hard. Weather fine, and barometer rising. Junco quiet without his chains, but now and then trumpets, as if in answer to the loud roaring and whistling of the wind through the corgage. He has by this time felt the effect of as heavy seas as the ship is likely to encounter, and is none the worse. As we anticipated, he has made himself his comparative freedom to rest his trunk upon the top bar in front of his cage, and derives much comfort and support therefrom. Both his keepers are accustomed to sea voyages, and feel no inconvenience. Emigrants free from any serious sickness, and doctor's work light.—*Off Scilly, Monday Night*.—The *Assrian Monarch* passed Scilly at seven o'clock this evening; wind north-west, with a fresh breeze. All well on board.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.—The movement inaugurated by the Prince of Wales to found a Royal College of Music is meeting with most satisfactory support. In addition to the subscriptions promised by the London Corporation and City Companies, over £50,000 has been given, so that the first £100,000 of the original sum of £300,000 required for the undertaking has been practically secured. In the course of the present month meetings are to be held in most of the large provincial towns, in order to more specially point out the character of the work the new institution will undertake. One of these meetings will be held in Nottingham, on the 23rd of April, at which the Duke of St. Albans, as Lord Lieutenant of the county, will preside.

COLONEL BURNABY'S BALLOON VOYAGE.

After an interview with a publishing firm in London on Saturday Colonel Burnaby left for Windsor. He has given an account of his trip and experiences, of which the following is a summary:—The balloon, the moment it was released, shot up to a high altitude and commenced at once to travel at a satisfactory rate of speed in the direction of Folkestone, leaving the high saddle of chalk known as Shakespeare's Cliff on the left. The Colonel, as soon as he had time to look around, saw that he was moving in the right course to Paris, and for some time afterwards he expected it would be a close race between himself and the passengers by the Continental mail-packet as to who should arrive first at the French capital. As noon approached he experienced a decided check. He was, in fact, drifting down Channel to the east. At the time when the wind changed he was within seven miles of Boulogne and travelling at a fair rate. He now tried several tactics with the view of getting again into a favourable current, but did not let out any great quantity of gas, as he hoped before long the wind might change in his favour. After this drifting for about two hours, matters began to look serious. About three o'clock a dead calm set in, and the balloon remained motionless a couple of thousand feet above the level of the sea, which was plainly discernible by the unaided eye. For a whole hour the traveller remained thus, calm, and, as it were, fixed in mid air. Eventually, finding that the wind had completely failed at the altitude he had then attained, Colonel Burnaby determined to make one or more efforts to gain a favourable current. Carefully gauging the instruments and taking reckonings in every quarter of the compass, and noticing an apparent drifting of the clouds above him towards the French coast, the gallant Colonel availed himself of his last resource, and emptied every remaining sack of ballast, and awaited the result with some trepidation. The balloon shot up far into the midst of the clouds, the altitude being over 11,000 feet. For a moment the Colonel could not understand what was going on; he was progressing, if at all. When the balloon, however, had steadied itself, the observations he was enabled to take showed that he was travelling with immense velocity, fortunately towards the French coast, which he had kept in sight the whole time. Only a few hours now entertained was left this favourable wind current should chop round suddenly and carry him out of his desired course. Very soon after getting going, however, he was overtaken by a strong, steady, favourable current, he for the first time found he was over the French coast, and could see the villages quite distinctly. He passed directly over Dieppe and gradually drifted to the south-west until he had left Dieppe some twelve miles behind. Then, as evening was closing in, and he was in a strange country, he decided to descend at once. Selecting as his landing place a recently ploughed field, free from trees, he threw out the grappling iron and "brought up" most successfully.

THE PAY OF THE HORSE GUARDS STAFF.

The officers on the Horse Guards Staff are in future to be paid a consolidated amount, including all full-pay, half-pay, or unattached pay. Their salaries from the 1st prox. will be as follows, viz.:—His Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Command-in-Chief, £8,320; Adjutant-General (Lieutenant-General Sir Garnet Wolseley), £2,700; Quarter-master-General (Lieutenant-General A. J. Herbert, C.B.), £2,100; Military Secretary (Lieutenant-General E. A. Whitmore, C.B.), £2,150; Assistant Military Secretary (Major-General Martin Dillon, C.B., C.S.), £1,100; two Deputy Adjutant-Generals, one for Auxiliary Forces (Major-General R. B. Hawley, C.B., and J. H. F. Elkington, C.B.), £1,700 each; one Deputy Quarter-master-General (Major-General Sir John Alcock, Bart., K.C.B.), £1,700; two Deputy Adjutants-General (Major-General Sir C. G. Arbuthnot, K.C.B., R.A., and Colonel Sir J. Stokes, K.C.B., R.E.), £1,500 each; one Inspector-General of Recruiting (Major-General E. G. Bulwer, C.B.), £2,000. The figures we have given will doubtless be interesting, and will, perhaps, have the effect of removing many erroneous impressions which exist as to the remuneration of those in whose hands the administration of the Army is placed. Considering what the duties and responsibilities of the several officers are, and that they have in many cases sunk several thousands pounds in the purchase of their commissions, it can scarcely be said that they are too liberally paid.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

THE CONVICT LAMSON.—MR. A. W. MILLS.

Lamson's solicitor, received a letter from him on Monday with reference to business matters, and in it the convict as strenuously as ever asserts his innocence of the crime of which he has been found guilty. He makes no allusion whatever to the efforts being made on his behalf by his friends, nor does he refer at all to the subject of a reprieve. Mr. Mills has returned to London from Bournemouth, where he proceeded to make inquiries as to some important facts which have been brought to his knowledge. He found, says the Press Association, that at one chemist's shop in Bournemouth the prisoner purchased no less than seven ounces of morphia in a month, and at another there was an account for morphia amounting to £12. Inquiries made at different hotels point to the prisoner being a very moderate drinker, but every one seems to have regarded him as being almost insane from the use of morphia. "Whilst in Bournemouth, he appears to have been very chaffed towards the poor, and was in the habit of giving orders to various tradesmen for coals and other necessary articles for delivery to poor persons. In most of these cases the accounts remain unpaid, and some important facts which have been brought to his knowledge. He found, says the Press Association, that at one chemist's shop in Bournemouth the prisoner purchased no less than seven ounces of morphia in a month, and at another there was an account for morphia amounting to £12. Inquiries made at different hotels point to the prisoner being a very moderate drinker, but every one seems to have regarded him as being almost insane from the use of morphia. "Whilst in Bournemouth, he appears to have been very chaffed towards the poor, and was in the habit of giving orders to various tradesmen for coals and other necessary articles for delivery to poor persons. In most of these cases the accounts remain unpaid, and some important facts which have been brought to his knowledge. He found, says the Press Association, that at one chemist's shop in Bournemouth the prisoner purchased no less than seven ounces of morphia in a month, and at another there was an account for morphia amounting to £12. Inquiries made at different hotels point to the prisoner being a very moderate drinker, but every one seems to have regarded him as being almost insane from the use of morphia. "Whilst in Bournemouth, he appears to have been very chaffed towards the poor, and was in the habit of giving orders to various tradesmen for coals and other necessary articles for delivery

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Mr. Ranyard, who is going to Egypt to observe the eclipse of May 17th, takes with him the camera of thirteen inches aperture which he took to the American eclipse in 1878. He has three cameras: a six inches and half inches aperture and eight feet six focal length, with smaller spectroscopic cameras. The party in Egypt will probably consist of Mr. Lewis Swift, of Rochester, U.S., M. Thollon, of Nice, Mr. Lockyer, Captain Abney, Mr. Blair, Mr. Lockyer and Captain Abney have applied for a grant from the Royal Society fund. M. Thollon goes out at the expense of M. Bischoffheim, Paris, who has chartered a special steamer from Cairo up the Nile. He also sends from France photographic apparatus to collect the sun's rays. Mr. Ranyard, when in Egypt, will join their party as a guest.—*Athenaeum*.

The Academy hears that Dr. J. R. M. Robertson, who has already been engaged in scientific exploration in Queensland, will visit the Cape of Good Hope, the Gulf of Carpentaria, with the view of making an extended exploration in that region and northern Australia generally.

Mr. Clement L. Vragge was presented at the general meeting of the Scottish Meteorological Society with their gold medal in recognition of his services in connection with the Novis observations. Mr. Buxton also read a paper on these observations, with more special reference to the weather forecasts.

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Great Britain

LONDON, APRIL 18—17, 1882.

ADMIRALTY CHANGES.

An extract from the *London Gazette* shows that a change announced in Parliament last March is now completed. As Lord Northbrook explained to the House and Mr. Trevelyan to the Commons, Mr. George W. Rendel, a partner in Sir William Armstrong's Elswick firm, has been appointed a Lord of the Admiralty. Another seat at the Board has also been assigned, according to the arrangement then indicated, to Rear-Admiral Brandreth, the Controller. Admiral Brandreth's fitness for the elevation has been demonstrated in the ordinary duties of his office. Membership of the Admiralty Board will not alter the functions he already discharged. When the Board assembles the deliberation on topics within his jurisdiction he has enjoyed the right hitherto of attending and defending his own measures or combating innovations. Before the revolution at the Admiralty of 1872 the Controller occupied a seat for all purposes. The old usage in that respect is now resumed. As the Board seldom meets for general conferences, the main effect of the return to the ancient practice will be some augmentation in the rank and authority attaching to the Controller's character. Useful as it would scarcely have been ground for the issue of a new Commission. But as Lord Northbrook intimated in the House of Lords, Admiral Brandreth's promotion was a necessary consequence of the nomination of Mr. Rendel. The Controller is responsible for the *matériel* of the navy. Mr. Rendel has been placed on the Board for the express object of aiding the Controller by the co-operation of one possessed of "special administrative and engineering knowledge, as well as administrative experience in the superintendence of large private establishments." Admiral Brandreth as Controller remains primarily answerable to the First Lord, and through him to the Queen and Parliament. A manifest inconsistency would have resulted from leaving the Controller in apparent charge, while degrading his post in the eyes of the service by letting him stand outside while his coadjutor was admitted to the inner councils of the department. The balance sheet of the Admiralty, as it were, is now in a position of equilibrium. The Controller, as it were, is now in a position of equilibrium. The Controller, as it were, is now in a position of equilibrium.

THE IMPRISONED SUSPECTS.

The case of the political prisoners in Irish jails has acquired new interest, if not fresh importance, by the temporary release of Mr. Parnell. We are not now speaking of those persons who are detained under the Lord-Lieutenant's warrant on suspicion of being concerned as principals in crimes of violence. It would be highly desirable if some open form of investigation could be made into the truth of the charges brought against these men, and into the value of the evidence on which they are confined. But those who were arrested because they were supposed to be guilty of treason, or some other political offence, are in a different category, and their case, as it seems to us, is more urgent. At the head of this list are the three members of Parliament, Mr. Parnell himself, Mr. Dillon, and Mr. O'Kelly. Mr. William O'Brien, the Editor of *United Ireland*, was, we are glad to know, released from Kilmallock on Saturday, after an imprisonment of six months. It would be rash to conclude that by entering into negotiations with the Government Mr. Parnell had abandoned his irreconcilable attitude. But it is for the Cabinet very seriously to reflect on the question what is to be gained by keeping him in prison. It is one of the hopeful symptoms in a very serious case that within the last few days two of the most extreme politicians among Mr. Parnell's Parliamentary followers, Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Metge, have deplored and condemned in many and outspoken language the deeds of violence and bloodshed of which Ireland has so much reason to be ashamed. Moreover, it must now be admitted that the imprisonment of Mr. Parnell and his colleagues is doing no good. There is no longer any danger of tenants being prevented by intimidation from applying to the Land Courts. There is, on the other hand, great danger of a secret conspiracy taking the place of open agitation. Indeed, to say that there is danger is to say too little. The process has begun, and agrarian crimes in Ireland are now of a more deadly and more deliberate kind than they were a year ago. Some better plan than promiscuous arrests on more or less justifiable suspicion will have to be adopted if order is to be restored. Respect for law is almost as important as obedience to it, and that will best be promoted by substituting proof for surmise. — *Daily News*.

RUSSIANS, GERMANS, AND JEWS.

The Frankfort correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Sunday night: "Questions of race have lately played so important a part in the politics of Germany and Eastern Europe generally that much stress has been laid on the appointment of M. de Giers as Russian Foreign Minister, he being generally reputed to be of German extraction, I take therefore, take the earliest opportunity of correcting this impression. The family of M. de Giers is, I believe, of Swedish origin. The new Foreign Minister comes, however, immediately from Finland, although he is neither Finnish, nor Slav, nor strictly Russian race. Two of M. de Giers' brothers are in positions of standing in other Russian Ministries. Race antipathies in Germany and Russia may be expected to lead to explosions and persecutions of more or less violence from time to time in the future. The Germans persecute the Jews. The Russians persecute the Poles and the Germans. The Teutons of the Fatherland are furious with the Russians for their conduct against persons of the German race, residents or settlers in the Empire of the Czar. They accuse the Russians, not only of barbarity, but also of black ingratitude. It is not the Germans, they ask, who have ever been the civilisers of Russia? Precisely the same ground is taken by the Jews who are the victims of persecution in Germany. 'Have the Germans,' they ask, 'ever reflected how much they owe to our race? Apart from the obligations connected with religion, have we always been the benefactors of the Jews? Have we not been the van of the van of intellectual and material progress? And does not our present position as proprietors of almost all the greatest German journals and as the leading bankers and financiers afford some proof of our claims to a certain kind of superiority?'"

Although for the moment the persecuting spirit is not active or acute either in Russia or Germany, my observation is that the antipathies of race have deepened and are rooted in very large sections of the populations of the two Empires. The native Russian is being taught by the Pan-Slavists to abhor all "Western civilisation," and to hate the German as the chief representative in Russia of the "civilisation of the West." The Germans are told in so many words—"You are intruders here just as much as the Jews. We don't want you. Your civilisation and pretended superiority of race have enabled you to do little more than plunder and suck the life-blood of our too easy-going, too peace-loving Russians. So far from being grateful for your Western civilisation, we only regard you as the 'Heathens of the West.'"

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, SATURDAY. The Queen and Princess Beatrice walked and drove this morning. Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein visited the Queen to-day and remained to luncheon.

SKIDWAY. The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon. Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, attended by Capt. Waller, arrived at the Castle at 20 minutes to 7 p.m. yesterday. The Hon. Mr. Harcourt, Mr. Spencer had the honour of being included in Her Majesty's dinner party. The Queen and Princess Beatrice attended Divine service this morning in the private chapel. The Rev. Francis J. Holland, minister of the Queen's Chapel, Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen and Canon of Canterbury, preached the sermon. Prince and Princess Christian and Duke Ernest Günther, of Schleswig-Holstein, visited the Queen to-day and remained to luncheon. The Hon. Mr. Harcourt has arrived at the Castle as Maid of Honour in Waiting.

THE MARRIAGE OF PRINCE LEOPOLD.

Prince Leopold arrived at Dover on Saturday afternoon by the London and Chatham special boat the *Sampshire*, Captain Dawson. The vessel left Calais shortly before two o'clock. His Royal Highness was accompanied by Captain Morgan, R.N., London and Chatham Marine Superintendent, and put alongside the Admiralty Pier at 3.15, just after the arrival of the *Calais Douvres*. A large number of the public on the pier to witness the landing of his Royal Highness, who was received by Major-General Newdgate, C.B., Captain Sir Thomas Bruce, R.N., and Lieutenant Forre, A.D.C. A short time elapsed after the arrival of the boat before the Prince came on shore. When he passed up the gangway it was seen he was still suffering considerably from lameness, and he had to resort to the use of crutches to enable him to reach the train. Considering his rough passage, and his illness during his short visit to the Continent, the Prince was looking remarkably well. Ample railway facilities were offered for him to reach his destination. The Duke, immediately after his arrival at Windsor, drove to the Castle to visit the Queen and Princess Beatrice. Princess

Helen and her parents, the Prince and Princess of Waldeck-Pyrmont, will, it is expected, arrive at Windsor on Tuesday next week, the 25th inst. The Queen's guests at the wedding will, it is understood, likewise include the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne), the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, the Duke of Cambridge, the Grand Duke of Hesse and the daughter, the Duke and Duchess of Teck, the Grand Duke and Duchess of Mecklenburg and the son, and Prince and Princess Philip of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein will also attend the marriage, and their Royal Highnesses will receive a number of visitors at Cumberland Lodge during the rejoicings. Since the return of the Queen to Windsor Castle most of the arrangements for the nuptials of the Duke of Albany and Princess Helen of Waldeck-Pyrmont have been settled, and the officials in the Lord Chamberlain's department, under the Earl of Kinnear and the Hon. S. Ponsonby-Fane, C.B., are now busily engaged in carrying out the preparations for the ceremony, which is to take place next Thursday week at St. George's Chapel. The marriage is expected to take place about one o'clock in the afternoon. The Duke and Duchess of Albany, at the close of the wedding festivities, will probably leave the Castle about four o'clock in the afternoon for Claremont House, which has already been prepared for their reception.

The Earl of Kinnear, Lord Chamberlain, has returned to Belgrave-square from Ireland.

The Countess of Warwick, Lord and Lady Eitch, and Captain Hon. Frederick V. Chetwode, R.N., are leaving for the East and the Countess of Wemyss at Gosford House, near Haddington.

Viscountess Malden and the Hon. Misses Capel have arrived at 39, Lowndes-street, from the Continent.

Lord Camford, Lord Privy Seal, returned to his house in Hamilton-place from Dublin on Friday night.

Lord Carew has left the Alexandra Hotel. Sir Henry and the Hon. Lady Ingilly have left their residence in Hereford-gardens for the season.

Sir Astley and Lady Cooper and family have arrived at 106, Eaton-square, for the season.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

Mr. Irving's acting edition of *Romeo and Juliet*, as now being performed at the Lyceum, has been published by the Chiswick Press.

Sir Alfred Lyall has in the press a volume of "Studies in the History of the East." Mr. R. B. Wilkinson, of Manchester, has just presented to the corporation of that city a portrait of Mr. Waugh painted by Mr. Percy.

In a letter to the corporation asking acceptance of the picture, Mr. Wilkinson says: "It is fitting that the city of Manchester should possess a portrait of this man of genius, whose name will descend to posterity, honoured not here only, but wherever Lancashire people make their homes." The interest in the sacred books of the East is spreading. We hear from Calcutta of a translation of the Koran into Bengali being published by Bhair Ghader Sen. The Moulvies in Calcutta speak well of it, and vouch for the accuracy of the translation.

Messrs. Chapman and Hall have issued a new edition of a household economy, entitled "How to Live on nothing," which is intended to teach how much that is now thrown away in every household can be utilised. The volume of sermons preached by the late Dean Stanley in Westminster Abbey on special occasions, which is about to be published by Mr. Murray, will include the discourses occasioned by the deaths of Lord Almonston, Charles Dugan, Canon de la Roche, the Princess Alice, Lady Rose, Lord Beaconsfield, and others.

Mr. Gallenga, in his new work, entitled "A Summer Holiday in Russia," has devoted considerable attention to the Jewish question. The work will contain chapters on Messia, the Jewish press, and the Jewish economy. The author will add an appendix recording his views on the subject of the outrages perpetrated on the Jews in those cities.

The ceremony of re-opening the Birmingham Free Library, which was destroyed by fire, will be held on Saturday next, the 21st inst. Mr. Bright has been appointed for the 1st of June. Mr. Bright has consented to take part in the proceedings.

Mr. Egmont Hale's new work, "Flattering Tales," is in the press, and will be published by Messrs. Chapman and Remington and Co.; as will also be "Songs and Rhymes," by Mr. Walter H. Pollock, and "Poets' Walk," by Mr. Mowbray Morris. The same firm will issue next month the "Life and Letters of Robert Browning," edited by the Rev. Mr. Mowbray Morris, and the following novel, "A Royal Armour," by Mr. R. Davey; "Tempted of the Devil," by the author of "A Fallen Angel," and "The Dawn of the Twentieth Century," by the Rev. Augustus J. Rose, respectively.

According to the *Academy*, Mr. Edwin W. Streeter has been engaged for many years in collecting materials for something like an authoritative history of the world's famous diamonds. In collaboration with Mr. Joseph Hatton and Mr. H. H. Keane (an Oriental scholar) he has completed a volume, entitled "The Great Diamonds of the World." In addition to the literary alliance just mentioned, Mr. Streeter has had the honour to have had the manuscript of the chapter on the "Koh-i-Noor" in the French edition of the "Koh-i-Noor" by the French Jeweller, and those on "The Pitt," "The Eugénie," and other stones revised and corrected by her Majesty the Empress Eugénie. The Ministers and Ambassadors of several European Courts have contributed valuable information.

The Jubilee Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Worcester, on August 8. The president-elect is Dr. William Strang, senior physician to the General Infirmary, Worcester. The Academy regrets to hear that the Treasury seem disposed to fetter with annoying conditions the proposed public grant of £5,000 towards the *Eira* search expedition. It is to be hoped that they will not persevere. The Hon. Mr. Harcourt has been seen on an expedition only associated with the nation through the Royal Geographical Society.

Nine cases have arrived at the British Museum from Baghdad, containing contract tablets of the later Babylonian period found at Abu Habba or Sippara. The *Athenæum* says:—The exhibition mania has made way in Constantinople. The first modern attempt was made in 1880 by two English visitors, Miss Sharpe and Miss Colvill. This succeeded, and last year the A.B.C. Club was formed and a larger exhibition held, as we mentioned in the *Athenæum*. A considerable balance remaining over, the A.B.C. Club has grown into the Art Club, with the Earl of Dufferin as president. The club's exhibition is to have three galleries:—one of contemporary works, one of loan paintings, and the third of miscellaneous works of Oriental art.

No place in the habitable world is equal to Mexico for a floral grotesque. All the year round the gardens are full of exquisite blossoms laden with fragrance. Even on the coldest day, in this mild tropical climate, Indians may be seen seated on the side walks with their baskets of flowers, violets, for a mere trifle, roses, geraniums, and a number of less-known flowers, are there in profusion. For a bouquet of beautiful flowers, which

would fetch five or six dollars in New York, but 20 cents are asked; and in the flower shops, for six and a quarter cents enough may be bought to decorate an ordinary-sized room.—*Land and Water*.

Mr. Watt, of Kierfold House, Sandwick, has discovered in his own parish a large specimen of the prehistoric brough, or round tower. The walls are massive, being from 10 to 15 feet broad and from 10 to 15 feet high. An underground passage, supposed to lead to a cave, has been explored for about 50 feet. This is the first specimen found in the Orkney Islands.

The private view of the exhibition of the Royal Academy takes place on the 28th inst., and the exhibition will be open to the public on the following Monday. The "Art Society," 118, New Bond-street, propose to hold an exhibition of the works of Mr. D. G. Rossetti at once (similar to the Millais exhibition which was held last year), and they invite the co-operation of the important examples of Mr. Rossetti's work.

Many persons will be sorry to hear that Chiswick Church, the parish church, of Hogarth and many men and women of note, the body of which is composed of fine red brick and is partly covered with names cut there, is to be "restored." Mr. Pearson will be the operator. A new chancel was added some years ago, and has been utilized in the usual way from that time. The tower has been altered practically rebuilt. The old church at Hammersmith, a late and somewhat clumsy building, but not without merit and convenience, is to be abolished in the most unnecessary manner, and all its historical associations, such as the "Old Church," will be lost, and the tower will be lost. It is said that Hammersmith Church must be destroyed in order to accommodate a large congregation in a large building. The fact is the old church is now nearly ruined. Sir William Harcourt is indispensable, it is said, —*Athenæum*.

Another relic of old London is about to pass away. Stockwell-park House, in Stockwell-road, an old and fine mansion, of Queen Anne's time, has been put lately up for auction, and is to be sold with its Italian garden, lawns, and kitchen garden, which presented many of the same features as that of the Trade-seants at Lambeth. They occupy about four acres, and are studded with cedars, chestnuts, hollies, and other evergreens, and great size and age. The house, like most of the mansions of the time, is built of fine red bricks, but of late has been covered with stucco, and the oak panelling of the rooms, staircases, and garden, inside, has been painted. Over the front entrance are the arms of the Angell family, to whom the estate belonged, and who gave their name to Angell Town at Brighton. With the arms of Angell are united those of Sir John Gresham, a name which is well known in the history of the city. The old iron gates which divided the Italian from the kitchen garden were very fine specimens of scrolled ironwork. The house will be pulled down very shortly, when the site will be utilized for building purposes.

THE SUNDERLAND LIBRARY.

The sale of the second portion of the Sunderland Library begins on Monday afternoon, and will be continued for several days. The first and fourth portions will have their first sale in the year, and it will have taken twelve months to disperse the magnificent collection formed in as many years by Charles Spencer, third Earl of Sunderland. The second instalment, now on view, will not only include the first portion, but will also include the third portion, which was sold in the year, and it will have taken twelve months to disperse the magnificent collection formed in as many years by Charles Spencer, third Earl of Sunderland.

There is in it no such commanding collection, from the bibliophile's point of view, as the series of Bibles and the Boccaccio of the first sale; but it is still rich in precious and rare books. The series of the Chronicles of France, Spain, and Portugal, the long list of rare Dante editions, the splendid collection of books and tracts relating to French affairs from 1563 to 1663, the innumerable first editions of classical and modern authors, and the series of the Boccaccio of the first sale; but it is still rich in precious and rare books. The series of the Chronicles of France, Spain, and Portugal, the long list of rare Dante editions, the splendid collection of books and tracts relating to French affairs from 1563 to 1663, the innumerable first editions of classical and modern authors, and the series of the Boccaccio of the first sale; but it is still rich in precious and rare books. 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